

Musa: Conference a step towards peace

MADRID (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Friday played down disputes at the Middle East conference, saying the gathering was a new step towards peace. "It is definitely a step towards peace. I don't want to be overly optimistic, but the peace process has in fact begun," he told a news conference. "The first speech-making phase of the conference ended in Madrid Friday with an angry exchange of accusations between Israel and Syria and a dispute over where the next phase, involving bilateral talks, should be held. "We should not be concerned by the continuation of such debate," Mr. Musa said. "I believe that the negotiations will take place as agreed. "Rest assured that there will be a beginning, starting on Sunday, of bilateral negotiations." The Arabs want these talks to take place in Madrid. Israel has so far only agreed to a Madrid meeting to discuss another venue, which it would like to see in the Middle East.



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Palestinians demonstrate for peace

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (R) — Hundreds of young Palestinians defied Israeli soldiers Friday by demonstrating in support of the Madrid peace conference. They were mostly young men and women who have been battling Israeli soldiers with stones for nearly four years. At a rally in a Ramallah school, they cheered when Sari Nusseibeh, an advisor to the 14 Palestinian negotiators in Madrid, told them their uprising was bearing fruit. "On, who yesterday challenged the bullets of the enemy, are challenging him today with the olive branch," Dr. Nusseibeh said. Palestinians are split over the historic Arab-Israeli meeting in Madrid. Followers of the mainstream back the decision to send a delegation to Madrid. Muslim fundamentalists and leftists are opposed. Supporters of the talks have been demonstrating during the past three days with olive branches. Israeli soldiers in Ramallah blocked roads in front of the 300 protesters, pushing them back and a conveyer of cars heading home. The soldiers pushed foreign reporters, tried to take cameras away from photographers, and ordered demonstrators and journalists to go home.

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Mideast peace conference adjourned

Landmark meeting seen as positive and good start despite no final agreement on venue for bilateral talks after first round in Madrid Sunday

Baker, Pankin remain closely involved

Special from Madrid

THE MADRID PEACE conference adjourned Friday, leaving it up to the participants and sponsors to agree on the venue and timing of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks over the weekend. Consultations will be held over the next two days to ensure the continuity of the talks whose first session will be held on Sunday. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin will lead those consultations in order to pave the way for a successful meeting, in which both sides can agree on continuing bilateral talks as soon as possible and at a mutually acceptable venue.

Israelis have been opposed to holding the bilateral talks in Madrid, as the Arab side is demanding, not only because they want negotiations to take place in Israel and the respective Arab countries but also because they do not want to give the Madrid conference a sense of continuity. The Arab delegations, on the other hand, will exert pressure on the Americans and the Soviets to agree to Madrid as the venue for the talks exactly for the opposite reasons.

The Arabs, along with many moderate Israelis, view the Madrid conference as international in nature, something for which they have been calling for several years, even though this party does not have the authority to impose solutions on the concerned parties. The Israeli government, for its part, vehemently rejects the label "international" and insists on looking at it as a "one-time affair" in which it is more "regional" in form and

substance. Both sides disagree on the party's definition and role, and each has been trying to give its own interpretation to its scope and meaning.

To emphasize the continuity of the conference, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa had to resign Mr. Pankin that the conference that it was "adjourned... subject to reconvening by consensus" rather than "closed" as the latter announced.

Mr. Pankin corrected himself and said that the conference was "adjourned."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had been totally opposed to holding any session of the bilateral talks in Madrid, but he agreed to holding the Sunday session here following a heated meeting he had on Thursday night with the Soviet foreign minister. According to reliable Arab sources, Mr. Pankin impressed upon Mr. Shamir the need and urgency for Israel to approve at least beginning the talks in Madrid, upon which both the Americans and the Soviets have been in total accord. Mr. Baker waited in the wings on that evening, leaving any leverage he might have exerted over Israel until such date when real pressure was needed to persuade the Israelis of the necessity to continue the talks outside the region — except perhaps for Cairo, the sources said.

Should the Israelis not budge from their opposition to the Madrid venue over the weekend and at the Sunday session, the U.S. and the Soviet Union are most likely to issue an invitation — similar to that of Oct. 18 for the peace conference — for a particular city and thus leave it up to Israel to attend or not, according to the sources.

"The Arabs will resist moving the talks out of Madrid, but they might eventually accept a compromise on substance. Both sides disagree on the party's definition and role, and each has been trying to give its own interpretation to its scope and meaning. To emphasize the continuity of the conference, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa had to resign Mr. Pankin that the conference that it was "adjourned... subject to reconvening by consensus" rather than "closed" as the latter announced. Mr. Pankin corrected himself and said that the conference was "adjourned."

another European, American, or Egyptian city being the new location," one of the sources said. "It is highly unlikely that the Israelis will say no should this happen."

Following the closing of the Madrid conference's first plenary session Friday, in which Israel and Syria traded recriminations and tough charges, Mr. Baker tried hard to get Mr. Sharaa to yield on Arab insistence on holding the bilateral talks in Madrid. But the Syrians, backed by the rest of Arab delegates, did not give in, leaving the conference to adjourn without reaching agreement on the bilateral negotiations, which are the second leg of the Middle East peace process as envisaged by the Americans.

In his closing remarks at the conference and a press briefing afterwards, Mr. Baker avoided any reference to the heated exchange with Mr. Sharaa earlier in the day, but it was implicit that the U.S. had used his harsh accusation against Mr. Shamir as a pressure tactic on the question of venue. The U.S. media in particular played a noticeable role in criticizing the Syrian foreign minister for his remarks against Mr. Shamir, but it virtually ignored the latter's provocative 15-minute speech at the outset of Friday's session in which he lashed out at the Syrian government, accusing it of being one of the most "tyrannical and oppressive" regimes in the world.

Baker speech positive

The U.S. secretary of state's closing speech to the conference (see page 7) was warmly welcomed by Arab delegates, however. "It was a clear message

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King confident of sincerity of region's desire for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday he had no reason to doubt Syrian desire for a just and durable peace in the Middle East and also expressed confidence that a formula could be found to enmesh Jordanian-Palestinian relations in a climate of peace, stability and security in the region.

The King, speaking in a satellite interview with reporters covering the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, also said the substance of discussions was more important than the venue of bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel.

Asked whether Jordan was prepared to attend the bilateral talks scheduled to start this weekend if they were held in the Middle East as demanded by Israel, the King said: "I can only say in this context that this is new to us and I believe that we should stress and put our efforts into substance rather than venue. This is

a suggestion that have come up rather recently and I think that it is inconvenient and rather difficult to visualise how one can have the preparations in place for anything like that within the very near future. I believe that the view is that when the venue has been decided in Spain — we are very grateful and thankful to our Spanish brethren, especially King Juan Carlos, the government and people of Spain for all their help and warm reception — I believe we should start there. It is early to think of what is next and it is physically impossible in my view to look at rather option. Of course this my personal view and it have to be worked out between ourselves."

In reply to a related question, the King said: "I think people are going around in circles. I would like just a person who lived in this part of the world all these years, shouldered responsibility and has been involved in

trying to secure a just and durable peace in this region for all its peoples, that we are wasting a lot of time on trivialities and on new suggestions and new ideas. We got something started, I know it is going to be difficult, I have always known it is going to be very difficult, it is going to take time, it is going to take effort. Let us not keep changing from time to time and offering different suggestions and ideas at the expense of what is at stake."

"And here I would like to address everybody there, all your colleagues who are present and through you hopefully everyone in the world; I am talking about human beings now in the world at large watching this process. It is the beginning of an attempt to resolve a very chronic problem that has been with us for many, many years, and the world as well, and through you I would like to address the men, the women, the children,

the people in this region on both sides of the divide. Please let us all work together to ensure that the attempts to attain a just and comprehensive and durable peace are not lost. We cannot afford to have that."

Asked by Israel Radio how he envisaged a future confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians, the King said: "I would like to hope and pray that everyone is serious about wanting peace; every body concerned, everybody who is responsible in this entire region. I have no reason to doubt the sincerity of President Assad in that regard."

"On the other hand, regarding the future, well, I hope that opportunities will be there for people to meet and

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Force alone will not offer security, Jordan tells Israel

MADRID (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Friday accused Israel of trying to derail the Middle East peace process by sticking to headline policies.

In his rebuttal speech on the final day of the Middle East peace conference, Dr. Abu Jaber said: "What we heard (from Israel) was in fact a further retreat into the old ideological moulds clearly designed to distract and indeed to derail the peace process."

He said Israel was entrenched in headline positions that flouted international law and United Nations resolutions.

Jordan had tried, Dr. Abu Jaber said, to present a vision of an honourable peace based on an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory.

"Israel can have either land or peace, but it cannot have both," he declared.

Jordan wanted peace but not at any price. Israel would not know true security until it was recognised by its neighbours as a part of the Middle East and Palestinians achieved self-determination, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

"Force alone will not provide security," he said. "It may be very well that Israel wants peace but it wants the Arabs alone to pay the price," he

added. "We say, give peace a chance, give our region a chance."

Dr. Abu Jaber said later Friday that Jordan agreed to attend the bilateral talks scheduled to take place on Sunday.

Dr. Abu Jaber added that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will attend the first session as one delegation, but will split into two separate teams in the subsequent session.

However, Dr. Abu Jaber said both delegations will maintain close cooperation during bilateral talks. He noted that Jordan always seeks to forge closer coordination and cooperation and that it will pursue this path. He voiced hope that bilateral talks take place as scheduled in Madrid and not be delayed or postponed because of differences over the venue.

Talking to members of the Jordanian media delegation in Madrid, Dr. Abu Jaber said he was saddened by the Israeli stand as voiced by Mr. Shamir. He noted that there are great differences in the positions of the Arabs and Israeli in the conference. The Israeli position was no surprise to the Arab delegations, because they were expecting such a hard belligerent Israeli position," he said.

Israelis kill Palestinian, impose massive curfew

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel kept nearly half a million Palestinians in the occupied territories under military curfew Friday, the third day of the Madrid peace conference, Palestinians said.

Israeli soldiers shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian youth during the night when he allegedly ignored orders to stop in the West Bank village of Awarta, Israel Radio said.

Yassin Mohammad Ali Awwad was the third Palestinian killed by Israeli soldiers since the eve of the Middle East conference.

Palestinians said some 300,000 Palestinians were confined to their homes in Gaza City and the nearby Shail refugee camp.

About 150,000 people in the West Bank town of Nablis and nearby refugee camps have been under curfew for nearly a week since Palestinians dropped a concrete block on an Israeli soldier.

A number of West Bank villages were under curfew. Palestinians in most parts of the West Bank returned to work Friday after a two-day strike ordered by Muslim fundamentalist and leftist groups opposed to the conference.

A strike call remained in effect in the occupied Gaza Strip, a hot-bed of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement.

On Thursday, an assistant to a Palestinian negotiator at the Madrid peace talks was sentenced to six months in jail.

The sentence was handed down to Dr. Rahab Mahana of the occupied Gaza Strip, who is deputy director of the Arab Medical Association headed by Dr. Zakaria Al Agha, one of the Palestinian negotiators in Madrid.

An Israeli spokesman said that Dr. Mahana was put under "administrative detention" for "security reasons." He declined to elaborate.

Dr. Mahana, 45, who also works at the Israeli government-run Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, was sentenced under emergency regulations formulated by Britain when it ruled mandate Palestine in 1945.

These allowed up to six months of "administrative detention" without charge or trial. Israel has kept the regulations in place but increased the maximum sentence without trial to one year.

Also Thursday, Israeli authorities confiscated loudspeakers from all mosques in Gaza City, Palestinian reporters said. They said this included about 20 mosques.

The reporters said the soldiers, also confiscated pictures of those killed in the Palestinian uprising.

Shamir-Levy feud surfaces in Madrid

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Infighting erupted in Israel's delegation to the peace talks Friday, and one delegate left Madrid in anger, complaining he was being pushed aside, a foreign ministry official said.

Yosef Hadas, acting foreign ministry director general, flew back from Madrid after objecting that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his followers showed "contempt" for ministry officials, said Uri Oren, an adviser to Foreign Minister David Levy.

At the root of the conflict is the deep political rivalry between Mr. Shamir and Mr. Levy, who refused to go to Madrid after Mr. Shamir rebuffed him as head of the Israeli delegation.

In a conciliatory gesture, Mr. Shamir included four foreign ministry officials in the 14-member delegation — Mr. Hadas, Eytan Bentsur, Ambassador to the United States Zalman Shoval, and ambassador to Spain Shlomo Ben-Ami.

Mr. Levy tried to have one of his people head one of the three Israeli negotiation teams opposite the Syrians, the Lebanese or the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Oren said the foreign ministry accepted Mr. Shamir's argument that the negotiations with Lebanon must be handled by the defence ministry since these would focus on security arrangements.

However, when Mr. Shamir's top political adviser, Yossi Ben-Aharon, the candidate for heading negotiations with Syria, decided to leave Madrid Friday, his spot should have given to a foreign ministry official, Mr. Oren said.

"But no, this request was ignored. The Syrian committee was handed over to the defence ministry... and Hadas was asked to head the Lebanon committee," Mr. Oren told Israel Radio.

Mr. Hadas took offence, saying the offer showed that Mr. Shamir assigned committee chairmanships based on domestic political considerations "intended to hurt the foreign ministry," Mr. Oren said.

"Hadas, like other senior foreign ministry officials... felt that his approach of neutralising the ministry, an attempt of contempt for his people, also continued in Madrid," Mr. Oren said.

It was not immediately clear whether the other three foreign ministry officials also left Madrid. A headline Israeli minister said meanwhile that Israel "should have walked out of the peace conference in protest at a Syrian speech branding Mr. Shamir a terrorist."

"I think the Israeli delegation should have gotten up and left the summit... until the Syrian representative finished speaking," said Minister without Portfolio Rehavam Zeevi, who opposed the peace talks.

Israel hopes bilateral talks will lead to peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir returned to Israel Friday at the end of the Madrid Middle East peace conference, saying he was hopeful that upcoming bilateral negotiations with the Arab states will lead to peace agreements.

"There is hope, after this campaign has passed more or less in peace, there is hope that the process will continue," Mr. Shamir told a news conference at the Ben-Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

He also expressed hope that "the bilateral negotiations too, with all their complications, will in the end lead to agreements."

However, Mr. Shamir said the place of future bilateral negotiations was "the first obstacle."

Israel wants bilateral talks to take place in the region following a one-day initial meeting in Madrid, Syria, reportedly, is insisting on Madrid or some other European capital.

The prime minister said Israel will insist on its demands, saying: "Without us the negotiations will not continue in any place."

"It is important for this process to take place in the region, and for the meetings to be rotational, once in Israel and once in the Arab country with which we are negotiating," Mr. Shamir said.

"It is important politically.

When we come to them and they come to us, it creates an atmosphere of advancement towards peace," Mr. Shamir said.

He also cited technical and logistic difficulties of running the negotiations far from the Middle East.

"The Syrian opposition is because the Syrians do not want to come to Israel," Mr. Shamir said, "and Syria is exerting pressure on the other Arab countries."

Opposition Labour Party leader Shimon Peres urged the Israeli government to be flexible on the venue for bilateral talks.

"Despite everything, the conference is more important than the location of the negotiations themselves," he told Israel Radio.

Mr. Peres said he believed Israel would not get its wish to have direct talks take place alternately in Israel and Arab states.

"I think in the end this is what will happen (the talks will take place in Madrid)," he said.

Asked if the Israeli demand to hold the talks in the Middle East was an ultimatum, Mr. Shamir said: "I would say this is our demand."

"Our people are going to a meeting on Sunday. We do not intend to continue negotiations in Madrid but there will be discussions."

Israeli jets, artillery hit Lebanese villages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two Israeli jets blasted Lebanese guerrilla bases in South Lebanon Friday as Israeli gunners kept up a bombardment of villages for a third day, Lebanese police said.

Also Friday, guerrillas vowed to attack Israeli interests throughout the world to protest the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid.

Police said the air raid, Israel's 17th this year, was aimed at bases around the southern village of Habboush, a stronghold of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

There was no immediate report of casualties from the 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) air attack on the village, which is about 15 kilometres north of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The raid was the third this week and followed two separate Israeli strikes against Hizbollah bases Tuesday after three Israeli soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb.

Guerrillas of Hizbollah's Islamic Resistance and Sunni Muslim fundamentalists of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine claimed responsibility for two separate attacks Tuesday, on the eve of the Madrid conference.

In Friday's air raid, a road bridge near Habboush was destroyed and a cluster of Hizbollah bases along the road between the neighbouring villages of Lowazeh and Jarjou were hit, police said.

The three targeted villages are located in a small mountain strip overlooking South Lebanon's market town of Nabatieh.

Nabatieh and neighbouring vil-

lages have taken the brunt of Israel's artillery bombardment since Tuesday's attacks.

Israel, which with the 3,000-strong SLA holds the 15-kilometre deep border "security zone" in South Lebanon, has vowed to retaliate against guerrilla raids regardless of the Madrid peace conference.

Security sources said Israeli and SLA artillery batteries in the south launched 40 shells during the afternoon before the air raids at sunset. About 180 shells were fired in the morning.

"This appears to be largely deterrent shelling. Or you could call it political shelling," said a security source, adding that low casualties showed guerrillas were under cover.

Israeli troops and the SLA have been shelling in and around Nabatieh for the past three days in what security sources said was a bid to pin down guerrillas.

Sources said they could be hitting targets like bridges to hamper guerrilla movement before launching a swift Israeli ground raid against Hizbollah.

Lebanese security sources said Israeli gunboats had appeared off the Lebanese coast and Israeli helicopters were seen flying over parts of the south after the strikes.

"We are monitoring an Israeli and SLA military buildup and movements on the frontlines overlooking Kiftin Al Toufah and Nabatieh," said one source.

Friday's air raids came several hours after about 2,500 supporters of Hizbollah and hardline Palestinian groups marched in the southern port of Sidon to protest at the peace talks.

Baker warns Arabs and Israel not to torpedo peace chances

MADRID (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said Friday they will try to persuade parties to the Mideast peace talks to begin the next round in Madrid Sunday.

But Mr. Baker was frankly critical of the failure of the parties to take what he called "confidence building steps" and to agree on time and place of the next stage, bilateral talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

"We will do our part. But we cannot do your part as well," Mr. Baker said in remarks closing the first stage of the conference. "The United States and the Soviet Union will provide encouragement, advice, recommendations, proposals, and views to help the peace process."

Mr. Pankin, the co-chairman of the conference, said at a subsequent news conference that he

and Mr. Baker expected the second phase to "begin in Madrid, and will begin as soon as possible."

Mr. Baker, sitting alongside Mr. Pankin, agreed, but stressed that the parties had not yet agreed on the place or starting time.

"Sunday would be the soonest possible," Mr. Baker said, but would not specify when.

Mr. Pankin said: "The peoples of the Middle East, who for decades have been suffering... now face the chance of a peaceful settlement."

"The search for new approaches to tackle decades-old problems and find solutions is gaining momentum," Mr. Pankin said. "I am convinced we can fulfill the mission that history has entrusted us with."

Earlier, Mr. Baker warned both sides.

"The parties have not yet been

able to agree on where to hold these negotiations," Mr. Baker said in the final session of the peace conference.

Later he told the news conference: "The problem... relates to the inability of the parties to agree to the venue or the location of the bilateral negotiations."

The row is over whether the talks should be in the Middle East, as Israel demands, or in Madrid as favoured by the Arabs. Israel believes it would gain additional legitimacy in Arab eyes by holding talks with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in their countries and in the Jewish state.

The Arabs want to withhold such legitimacy until Israel starts withdrawing from occupied territories.

Mr. Baker said he and Mr. Pankin tried up to the end of the

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Shamir assails Syria; Sharaa hits back with terrorism charge

MADRID (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir denounced Syria Friday as one of the world's "tyrannical regimes" and drew an equally fierce attack from Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa.

Mr. Shamir took the podium at the royal palace on the third and final day of the Middle East peace conference, the first of the delegation leaders to rebut Thursday's opening speeches.

"We have heard much criticism and many charges," Mr. Shamir said. "We cannot respond to every charge... to every misrepresentation of facts, and there were quite a few."

Nevertheless, he said, "with an open heart, we call on the Arab world to take the courageous step and respond to our outstretched hand in peace."

Mr. Shamir set out by announcing he was leaving Madrid in order to get to Israel in time for the Jewish Sabbath. His chair at the conference table remained empty. Mr. Shamir was the only prime minister to head a delegation; the others were led by foreign ministers of other officials.

Mr. Shamir used his 10-minute

especially by Mr. Sharaa, who "wants us to believe that his country is a model of human rights."

"Such a statement stretches credibility to infinite proportions. The ancient Jewish community in Syria has been exposed to cruel oppression, discrimination of the worst kind."

He said Syria "merits the dubious honour of being one of the most oppressive, tyrannical regimes in the world."

Mr. Shamir repeated his proposal to offer self-rule for the 1.7 million Palestinians under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But he accused Farouq Abdul Sharaa, head of the Palestinian delegation, of perpetrating a "twisting of history and perversion of fact."

Countering Mr. Shamir's attack on Syria, Mr. Sharaa brandished a terrorist wanted poster of Mr. Shamir.

"I really had wanted to focus on peace for which he had come," Mr. Sharaa said departing from his prepared text.

"Before that I shall just show you, if I may, a photograph, an old photograph of Mr. Shamir at the age of 32," he said pulling the poster from

his pocket.

"Why was this picture distributed? Because he was wanted. He himself recognised that he was a terrorist, that he practised terrorism and that he helped in the assassination of Count Bernadotte... he killed peace mediators."

He was showing a copy of a 1948 "wanted poster" for Mr. Shamir in connection with the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, a Swedish diplomat mediating the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Shamir was in those days one of the commanders of the Stern gang, an underground terrorist organisation that fought the British rulers of Palestine. He has justified the group's violence as essential to Israel's struggle for "independence" — which it was granted in 1948.

Arab delegates gave Mr. Sharaa a loud ovation, but Secretary of State James Baker, sitting at the head of the conference table, did not applaud.

Mr. Sharaa lambasted Mr. Shamir for leaving, saying he was taking peace lightly.

Organisation to promote environmental health activities in region

AMMAN (J.T.) — A programme organised by the U.N. Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), which is affiliated with the World Health Organisation (WHO), includes among other things measures to enhance the centre's efficiency and effectiveness in promoting environmental health in the region.

Minister of information calls on Israel to abide by U.N. resolutions

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Thursday said Jordan had always sought to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on United Nations Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy.

In an interview with a 15-member journalist delegation representing the German media, Mr. Sharif said Jordan had from the very beginning supported the international efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and had supported all initiatives aimed at finding an honourable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The minister added that the peace Jordan seeks to achieve is one based on the land for peace principle and on the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem. The kind of peace Jordan seeks also to achieve is one which recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

Mr. Sharif called on the international community to pressure Israel into respecting and observing the UN resolutions and noted that the goal of establishing peace is a global responsibility which should be shouldered by all countries of the world.

Officials call for formation of committee for population education

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day regional seminar on population education and the role of Arab women concluded here Friday with a call for forming a higher committee for population education in each country.

The proposed committee will be entrusted with drawing up population education policies, defining objectives, preparing programmes and suggesting means of implementing such programmes.

three day meeting at the CEHA regional office in Amman by the third biennial meeting of The CEHA Technical Advisory Committee. The meeting, which began Oct. 29, evaluates and endorses a work plan for the next two years and conducted an assessment of CEHA's activities and programmes.

WHO officials said the seminar was designed to enable health workers and experts to exchange views about environmental health within the eastern Mediterranean region and to discuss problems related to water and sanitation.

Representatives of Pakistan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Jordan were represented at the meeting, which is the third by the committee to be held in Amman.



Mahmoud Al Sharif current path, then it will not achieve general peace.

Mr. Sharif warned of the grave consequences should Madrid conference fails.

"The conference is a golden opportunity which may not come back again and if this opportunity is allowed to pass without being grasped, then the whole region will plunge into a new wave of violence and wars," Mr. Sharif said.

Answering a question on the Arab boycott of Israel, Mr. Sharif said no single Arab country can end this boycott unilaterally because it is a collective Arab responsibility. He reaffirmed that the Arab boycott of Israel will continue until Israel commits itself to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and returning them to their owners in return for peace.

Answering a question, on the Jordanian economy, the minister said it was facing some difficulty caused by the Gulf crisis. He called on the European countries, including Germany, to help Jordan overcome its financial and economic difficulties. He also voiced hope that relations between Jordan and the Arab countries of the Gulf would be restored to normal, noting that there were some encouraging signs in that direction.

Mr. Sharif called on the Arab countries to rise above the differences caused by the Gulf crisis, and to build a new Arab order capable of dealing with the latest international developments.

The head of the journalist delegation, which Friday wound up a five-day fact-finding tour of the region, stressed that peace and freedom are essential for all countries all over the world. He said that his country would help Jordan pursue its peaceful efforts and voiced hope that the efforts would be made to establish peace will succeed.

Local BCCI branches to open Monday as Business Bank

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Normal operations at the three local branches of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) are expected to resume Monday under a new name and management with the conclusion Thursday of an agreement between the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and a local investment bank.

Under the agreement, the Business Bank, hitherto an investment firm and portfolio agents, will raise its capital to the required minimum of JD 5 million and will be given a commercial banking license to operate the three branches.

Rajai Muasher, chairman of the board of directors of the Business Bank, said the bank had already completed the legal formalities and expected to secure the commercial license before Monday after going through a routine approval process involving the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and the central bank.

The transfer of ownership of the three BCCI branches in Jordan was agreed in principle in September after the CBJ, which took over the branches following the government seizure of BCCI assets in Europe in early July, found the Business Bank's JD 1.26 million offer the highest among four bidders.

But the formalisation of the agreement was delayed until a court verdict on the fate of BCCI Jordan in view of the international troubles of the Luxembourg-based institution. The court authorised the liquidation of BCCI Jordan and

appointed the CBJ as the liquidator. In turn, the CBJ, in its capacity as liquidators, transferred the ownership to the Business Bank, thus fulfilling the legal requirements.

The JD 1.26 million that the Business Bank paid represents a "sort of fees for the CBJ and cannot be described as the purchase price for BCCI," said an international banking law expert.

"In all legal senses, the CBJ retains the sole responsibility to answer international claims, if any, related to the BCCI branches in Jordan," according to the expert.

"The Business Bank will not have any legal liability in relation to BCCI's international operations," added the expert, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"This explains the CBJ's anxiety to ensure that no legal loophole was left unplugged before formally concluding the deal," he said.

The three branches will remain closed Saturday and Sunday and reopen Monday and resume normal transactions, frozen until now except for certain limited withdrawals permitted by the Central Bank since its take-over in July.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Saad Al Nabulsi — in his capacity as liquidator — and Mr. Muasher signed Thursday's agreement.

Under the agreement, the Business Bank undertook to "meet all obligations of the bank" and to deal with BCCI depositors on the same terms and conditions offered by the erstwhile management of the BCCI, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The agreement also stipulates that none of the 90 plus BCCI employees will be dismissed by the Business Bank during the first year after the transfer. The new management also guaranteed the interests of all employees.

Representatives of the European government-appointed receivers visited Jordan in October and held talks with the CBJ over the issue, informed banking sources said.

"They gave their consent to the transfer of ownership," said one of the sources.

The sources said they were not aware of any conditions or agreements reached between the receivers and the central bank. No official comment was immediately available on this aspect.

The three BCCI branches had over 7,000 customers, with a total of JD 66 million in deposits and an equal amount in assets. The outstanding credits are worth JD 21 million, according to figures given by officials earlier.

The CBJ's intervention earlier this year in anticipation of international trouble hitting BCCI averted any major loss for BCCI customers in Jordan. More than 94 per cent of all BCCI deposits in foreign currency had been transferred to the central bank by the time the collapse occurred in July.

"All of the outstanding credits and advances extended by BCCI are fully guaranteed with sound collaterals in Jordan," said Fakhr Bilbeisi, regional manager of BCCI, who is expected to continue with the Business Bank.

Seminar participants call for study on handicapped in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day conference organised by the Jordanian-Swedish Medical Society at the University of Jordan has ended with the participating experts from Jordan and Sweden calling for a national survey to be conducted to determine the number and type of disabilities and services offered to the handicapped.

The conference, held under the title of "Community-based Rehabilitation," focused attention on the handicapped and means of dealing with disabilities of various types.

According to the chairman of a committee preparing for the conference, Dr. Mohammad Khatib, the proposed survey should also shed light on the sources of financing rehabilitation projects for the handicapped and the skilled manpower involved as well as the obstacles standing in the way of providing services to the handicapped in Jordan.

Dr. Khatib said that the survey is to be conducted by the Jordanian-Swedish Medical Society in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Health Ministry.

He said that the participants recommended that the current programme for rehabilitating the handicapped be upgraded with special attention to be given to the rural regions. He said that the outcome of such a survey as well as studies connected with the

work of two centres that to be chosen as a model for improving and upgrading services for the handicapped will be announced in February 1992.

The experts stressed the need for local rehabilitation centres to maintain close cooperation with international organisations working in the same field. Dr. Khatib said.

The conference was the third of its kind to be organised by the Society. The first and second meetings were held in Amman in 1988 and in Sweden in 1989. Nearly 50 per cent of the studies and research papers reviewed at the meetings were prepared by the Jordanian side.

Jordanian exporters to target European, American markets

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) has embarked on a programme designed to promote the sale of Jordanian national products in European and American markets with the assistance of international experts.

A display of the measures to be taken to achieve that goal was presented at a meeting held at the JCCC office attended by Prime Minister Taher Masi, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb and other ministers and senior officials.

JCCC Director General Rima Khalaf Humeidi told the meeting that experts from an international commercial firm last month embarked on a plan to enable 29 local companies involved in the production of garments and leather products to upgrade their quality, capable of competing with other products on the international markets.

Dr. Humeidi reviewed the various studies conducted in this matter and the steps taken to ensure the success of the programme, which was part of JCCC efforts to contribute to the re-stimulation of the national economy through widening Jordan's exports capabilities, she said.

The Jordanian government has agreed to allocate \$5 million, which came as part of a Swiss grant to Jordan, in order to carry out the project, Dr. Humeidi said.

The JCCC, which is affiliated to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and which is entrusted with helping Jordan market its products abroad, has set up a special team working under the supervision of a steering committee chaired by Mr. Abul Ragheb to carry out the project, Dr. Humeidi said. She said the team comprises representatives of the public as well as the private sectors.

The steering committee has been seeking to boost Jordan's exports by first studying the needs of foreign markets of different products and second by helping local companies upgrade the quality of their products. Dr. Humeidi said that the programme's primary targets are the markets of America and Europe.

During the display, the audience inspected samples of a number of garments and leather products by the 29 Jordanian companies included in the programme.

An expert representing the foreign firm helping the JCCC launch the programme reviewed obstacles and difficulties which the Jordanian industrial sector has to overcome to ensure success in marketing their products. He referred in particular to the lack of sufficient raw materials for the programme and the high cost of importing such materials from other countries. He said that the local companies have to adhere to the required international specifications and standards in order to help the programme achieve success.

But, he added, the Jordanian industrial sector was capable of meeting the challenge and producing high quality products for the world market.



Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker confers the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order to European Parliament President

Enrique Baron Crespo for his efforts to bolster EC-Jordanian relations (Petra photo)

Jordan seeks more aid from European Community

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan's finance minister is going to Brussels next week to seek more European Community (EC) aid for the debt-hit Kingdom.

Enrique Baron Crespo, president of the European Parliament, told reporters Friday that the minister, Basel Jaraneh, would meet the EC Commission's Council of Cooperation to seek ways to help Jordan rebuild its economy.

He gave no further details but said the parliament was ready to do its best to help Jordan.

The EC is one of Jordan's biggest foreign aid donors.

It has spent millions of dollars over the years on the impoverished Kingdom, facing an \$8 billion foreign debt and grappling with the return of more than 270,000 Jordanians from Kuwait because of the Gulf war.

His Majesty King Hussein, in a speech to the European Parliament in September, appealed for

more help to stave off economic collapse.

U.N. studies estimate that Jordan will need \$3.14 billion over the next three years to absorb an estimated 300,000 people from the Gulf.

The government had previously estimated it would need to spend \$4.5 billion over the next five years.

Mr. Crespo made the statement upon leaving Amman at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan during which he was received by King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

with whom he discussed the Middle East peace conference and EC support for Jordan.

Mr. Crespo, who arrived here Wednesday, had earlier visited Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

On Thursday, Mr. Crespo was presented with the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order as conferred on him by King Hussein in recognition of his efforts to bolster EC-Jordanian relations.

The medal was presented by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

European journalists touring Middle East

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twelve senior journalists from Europe have embarked on a visit to the Middle East on a mission sponsored by the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI).

The journalists represent newspapers in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The mission is seen as an integral extension of the International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine, which was held in Helsinki from June 3 to

5. That encounter, which was also sponsored by DPI, examined the prospects for a Middle East peace conference. Most of the journalists who participated in it are also taking part in the mission.

The journalists will visit Tunis, Amman, Damascus and Cairo to meet with senior government officials, the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and individual Palestinians in the refugee camps.

The news mission is held in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 44/410 of Dec. 6, 1989, and 45/670 of Dec. 6, 1990.



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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sina Ata at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Iraqi art exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery of Art and Culture, Gardens Street (opening ceremony at 2 p.m.).
- ★ A special season of antique lithographs, engravings, folio-illustrations and maps, 18th & 19th century prints of Palestine, Jordan — the Mideast as well as orientalist scenes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental.

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راديو سيلينا ٢١٥ الرائج
في حاوية ممتلئة بعرض ٢٠ قدما وحمولة
١٢٠٠ قطعة للحاوية الواحدة

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The issues the PLO must tackle

By Yezid Sayigh

The following article is reprinted from the Oct. 25 issue of the Middle East International.

IN welcoming the joint U.S.-Soviet proposal for a regional peace conference, the Palestine National Council (PNC) struck a carefully crafted balance at the end of its session in late September. It as good as said "yes" to the initiative and so avoided being blamed for obstructionism, yet retained PLO control over the issue of Palestinian representation and kept the door open for a greater eventual role for the organisation in the peace talks.

The PLO is by no means off the hook, though. For a start, the U.S. has not altered its stance towards the PLO — no reopening of the dialogue — or on how the Palestinians should be represented — in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The PLO still faces the difficult no-choice situation of being asked to give in to U.S. and/or Israeli terms for Palestinian participation and then write itself out of the script.

To some extent, the PLO leadership anticipated this problem. The crucial, final PNC statement did not insist that the PLO should be present at the peace conference, for example, nor that it should publicly appoint the Palestinian delegation. Indeed, what is most striking is the degree to which the basis was laid at the PNC for making radical and unacceptable concessions. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in particular seems to have realised that these may be necessary if the Palestinians are to gain any degree of sovereignty or autonomy in the occupied territories, and he is now positioned internally to make extremely painful decisions, thanks to the mantle of legitimacy provided by the PNC.

The foremost concession is the implied Palestinian willingness to accept less than statehood, at least in the interim period. True, the PNC did reiterate its commitment to achieving full independence ultimately, but this came in a separate paragraph in the final

statement. More important was the section setting the Palestinian terms of reference for the negotiations: it deliberately omitted the term "independence." Instead it referred only to "self-determination." This distinction was also reflected in the repeated reference by Mr. Arafat and his colleagues during PNC discussions to the "political" rights of the Palestinians, rather than their "national" rights. That such concessions are being envisaged is evident in Mr. Arafat's insistence at one point in the PNC debate that a speaker from the Popular Front refrain from using the term "sell-out" (tafit).

The real problem facing the PLO goes well beyond dealing with the U.S. or preparing itself to make major concessions, however. Its future survival and diplomacy depend entirely on success in three areas: dealing with its opposition, reviving the intifada and implementing reforms to reorder its internal politics.

Dealing with the opposition

The willingness of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and other "hard-line" groups within the PLO framework — the "loyal" opposition — to accept the terms of debate at the PNC is significant. They were as able as anyone else to read between the lines and predict precisely what concessions Mr. Arafat was preparing to make. Ostensibly, the PFLP and its allies can still block Mr. Arafat by making him refer all "fateful" decisions to the 50-person PLO Central Council, which stands in for the PNC between sessions. But the PFLP knows that this will change little, and so it will resort to the council only as a fig leaf to cover its own resignation to harsh realities.

Nonetheless, this situation may change radically if the peace process stalls or collapses. The PFLP has threatened to pull out of the PLO Executive Committee if it considers Mr. Arafat has exceeded his negotiating mandate. The PFLP's threat will become more serious if it develops its

relationship with fundamentalist Hamas. It was exasperated by the unrealistic conditions set by Hamas for joining the PNC, during a special dialogue held in Amman in September, but failure of the peace process could bring them together and swing Palestinian public opinion in the occupied territories decisively behind either or both of them.

In any case, the attitude of Hamas is in fact more ambivalent than commonly assumed. Despite its image as a strongly rejectionist force, the public statement it issued in September was notable for several glaring gaps, gaps that dangled the prospect of its participating in negotiations and accepting a compromise with Israel, if the implication was, it could supplant the PLO. This opportunism may be cynical, but it also suggests that Hamas may fall in line behind the mainstream PNC position after all, albeit without publicising its compliance, especially if the PLO majority holds and is backed by public opinion in the territories.

Hamas is nonetheless holding to its rejectionist line for the time being and picking up grass-roots support on that basis, if only to manoeuvre itself into a position of primacy in Palestinian politics and thus lever itself into a dominant position in the PLO and PNC. Its latest move has been to join the Damascus-based Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) — comprising such luminaries as Ahmad Jibril and Fateh rebel Abu Musa — in a statement attacking the PNC resolutions and the PLO leadership.

For their part, the decision by the PNSF groups to boycott the PNC session revealed the extent to which they have been marginalised. Discarded by their Syrian patrons who, it should be remembered, originally set the peace process rolling by accepting the U.S.-Soviet initiative in July, it would have been extremely humiliating for the Damascus-based rejectionists to attend the PNC. They now hope to revive their fortunes by clinging to Hamas' coat-tails and forming a new broad coalition against Mr. Arafat, but the fact that even the

Arab wartime coalition governments (the GOC, Egypt and Syria) have given up trying to dislodge the PLO chairman means that the PNSF has little future.

The future of the intifada

Although the revival of PLO fortunes in the late 1980s was linked to the eruption of the intifada, and despite repeated calls to strengthen the uprising, the PNC offered no new departures in tactics and strategy. More remarkably, the PNC avoided the obvious question of what directions to offer on how the intifada should proceed when the regional peace conference convenes. The U.S. and Israel have demanded a cessation of the uprising — a "cease-fire" — and the PLO will have to determine its response.

On the one hand, compliance with the U.S.-Israeli demand (however cynical) would weaken the Palestinian negotiating position and provoke accusations of betrayal from the opposition. Conversely, maintaining the intifada might provoke the U.S. and give it excuses (however unjustified) to isolate the PLO. Worst of all, to call for continuation or even escalation of the uprising might impose excessive demands on the Palestinian population under occupation, physically and mentally exhausted after four years of Israeli counter-measures.

On the other hand, failure by the PLO to offer clear policy guidance would leave the intifada rudderless. Deep political and social divisions would reinforce worrying trends that are already apparent. Some sectors of the population would seek a return to complete normality, while others would resort to more intense violence. The Israeli authorities would build on existing divisions and rivalries in the occupied territories to foment civil strife and deprive the PLO of its current mainstay.

A forward-looking compromise for the PLO (and the local intifada leadership) would be to call off certain aspects that have become ineffective or that even

damage Palestinian society and economy. The commercial strike and execution of collaborators are examples of activities that might be halted forthrightly, with a clear explanation of reasons and purpose.

Conversely, the PLO would focus on selective forms of action and civilian resistance designed to maintain morale and to exert carefully calibrated pressure on Israel at chosen moments in the negotiating process. By giving people clearly defined and manageable tasks, based on realistic political thinking, the PLO could actually invigorate the uprising. This requires long-term planning and strategic thinking on its part, because both success and failure of the peace process will impose major tasks on the PLO and its people.

Internal politics and reform

Increasingly, public pressure has been exerted on the PLO leadership from a variety of Palestinian sources, especially since the Gulf war, to reform its structures and internal politics. Beyond calls for a greater accountability within the PLO, the focus of attention has been on loosening the monopoly of the guerrilla groups on the conduct of politics and central decision making, and so on allowing "independent" representatives a greater role. As a result, the PNC was widely expected to debate specific proposals to change the distribution of its seats, revitalise PLO departments and seek electoral methods for the selection of PNC delegates.

In the event, and not surprisingly, the same guerrilla groups and leaders who have shaped PLO politics since the late 1960s effectively shelved the reform debate, condemning a handful of proposals to probable oblivion by referring them to follow-on committees. The survival of factional politics may allow the various opposition groups, now weakened, to rebound, as suggested by their behaviour during and since the PNC.

Leaders of the "loyal" PLO oppositions such as Nayef Hawat-

meh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Abul Abbas of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and Samir Ghosheh's Popular Struggle Front initially adopted a rejectionist tone, which they only moderated when they were assured that they personally or their groups would occupy seats on the PLO Executive Committee. In fairness, the urgency of dealing with the U.S.-Soviet peace initiative played a part in deferring long-term issues such as internal reforms. Nor will it be easy for the PLO to surmount a number of major, external obstacles to democratising its own structures and the PNC more extensively.

Palestinian elections

One such obstacle is the virtual impossibility of conducting free parliamentary elections among the Palestinian constituencies under Israeli occupation or Arab rule. This prevents the so-called "independents" from offering a viable counterweight to the political factions inside the PNC. Only an internationally sponsored effort, preferably through the U.N. could persuade the governments concerned to permit Palestinian elections. But it is up to the PLO to raise this as a central plank in its platform.

Any move towards adopting elections as a central Palestinian demand or implementing internal reforms now depends on the ability and willingness of the new 19-man PLO Executive Committee to tackle such issues. However, this body represents a political compromise between the competing factions and so is unlikely to make progress on reforms, even if it has a real interest in doing so. External circumstances make it very difficult to alter the basis of internal politics, but unless the PLO pushes consistently for reform and long-term planning, it will face serious new challenges from within and without, whether the peace process progresses or falters.

Dr. Sayigh is a research fellow at St. Anthony's College, Oxford.

Difficult but attainable

U.S. SECRETARY of State James Baker deserves all the sympathy and respect he can muster for keeping his head straight during Friday's heated exchange between Arab and Israeli delegates at the Madrid conference. Mr. Baker also deserves praise for his closing speech in which he demonstrated a strong American commitment to pursuing the peace process.

It is now clear that peace in the Middle East depends on two formulas for exchange: Land and security. The Arabs want their occupied territories liberated; the Israelis want security guarantees. With land returned, the Arabs want the Palestinian people's rights to be restored. With security the Israelis want Arab recognition and accommodation. This now seems to be an attainable formula for peace. It has been difficult in the past because Arabs and Israelis were polarised by the Soviet Union and the U.S. Now, the situation has changed.

"This conference demonstrates vividly the end of the cold war and the flowering of U.S.-Soviet partnership in resolving regional conflicts," Mr. Baker said. To drive his point home, he continued: "Where we once competed, we now cooperate."

This should be a reminder, especially to the Israelis, that the U.S. no longer looks at Israel in the strategic context of West-East rivalry as it did in the past. The U.S. is determined to achieve peace in the Middle East no matter what it takes. It no longer talks about itself and the Soviets as mere catalysts. "The U.S. and the Soviet Union are prepared to participate directly in the negotiations themselves," Mr. Baker said. "Sometimes, we will support your positions and sometimes not," he said.

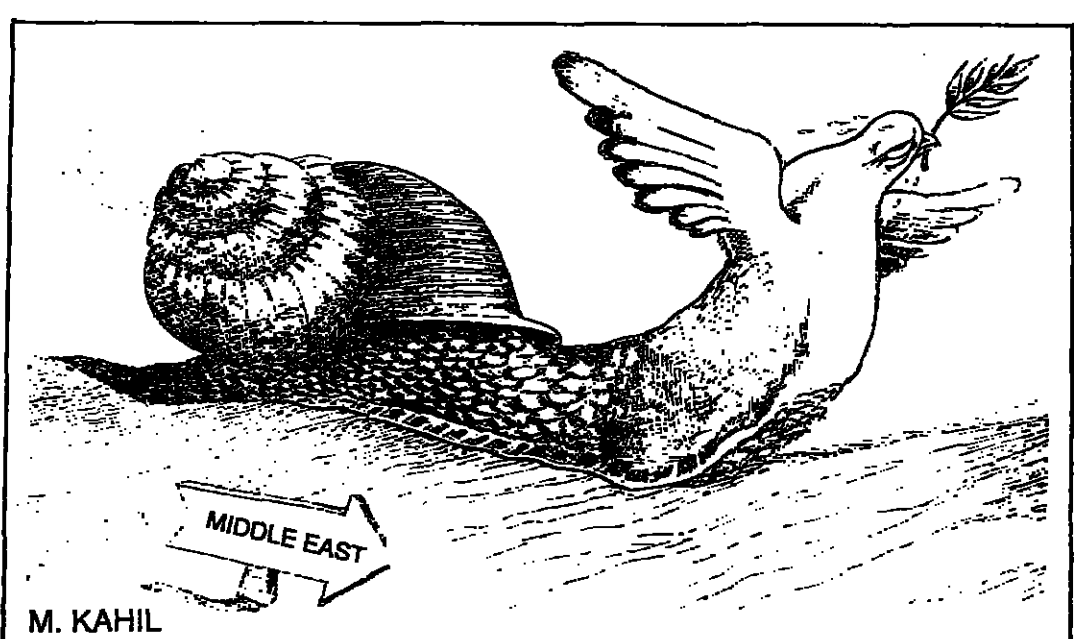
Reading between the lines one would discern that the U.S. cannot support positions that contradict the key U.N. resolutions, especially 242 and 338 upon which the Madrid conference was convened.

The U.S. will not also go back on President George Bush's pledge in front of the American Congress on March 6 that the ultimate aim of negotiations should be the exchange of land for peace in accordance to Resolutions 242 and 338. Mr. Baker made this clear in his closing remarks. He said: "Our involvement in this process will be rooted solidly in the core principles enunciated by President Bush last March." Barring sabotage by rejectionists, the Madrid process is bound to escalate, albeit slowly, towards full and just peace. Notwithstanding the rhetoric and the declared positions, we feel that almost everyone, most importantly at this stage each of the two sponsors, is determined to continue the process and that the yearning for peace will ultimately yield fruit.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ALL Jordanian dailies focused attention on the peace conference in Madrid, with Al Ra'i daily describing the opening session as a peace assault by the Arab delegates. However, the paper said that the Arab countries' thrust for a just peace was braked by the address of the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who focused attention on the Jewish history and not on the exchange of land for peace as demanded by the Arabs in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 for which Madrid conference has been convened. In the paper's view, the Arab delegates' peace assault was overwhelming. The paper said that the address delivered by the Jordanian and Palestinian delegates helped to focus the world attention on the need for the implementation of Security Council resolutions and an end to Israel's occupation while the Israeli prime minister's speech had no mention of exchanging territory for peace nor any mention of the rights of the Palestinians. The paper said that the speeches of the Syrian, Egyptian and Lebanese delegates also pointed to the need for a just and durable peace, warning Israel of the danger of disregarding this golden opportunity to achieve that goal. The paper said that the Arab speeches were comprehensive, shedding light on the whole situation and giving the world a clearer view of Israel's aggressive nature and its occupation, coupled with the building of settlements in the occupied Arab land.

Al Dussour daily accused the Israeli prime minister of trying to escape from confronting the facts and from implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions. The paper said that Mr. Shamir's speech exposed Israel's real intentions and the coming manoeuvres through which it hopes to avoid complying with the international legality. Mr. Shamir is trying to escape the requirements of peace, namely the withdrawal from occupied Arab land and respect for international legitimacy, said the paper. By acting in such a manner, Mr. Shamir has shown Israel's full intention of blackmailing the conference and causing its total collapse, the paper added. It said that the Israeli premier has totally disregarded any mention of Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese land occupied by his forces, and disregarded the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The paper said that Mr. Shamir's address was an open invitation to the Arab countries and the Palestinians to surrender to Israel's wishes and give up attempts to regain usurped land. It said it would not be surprising if the conference reaches a deadlock if the Israelis adhere to their present intransigent stand.



Peace ideas are old, so why the big delay in starting talks?

By Alexander G. Higgins
 The Associated Press

MADRID — The road to Madrid is littered with failed attempts to bring peace to the Middle East.

The ideas haven't changed, but the world has: The cold war is over; Palestinians are newly assertive after four years of an uprising in Israeli-occupied territories; the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has been weakened by siding with Iraq in the Gulf war.

For the first time in more than 30 years, an American administration has been consistently and bluntly critical of Israeli policies.

Many Israelis believe that with the decline of Soviet power in the Middle East, the Jewish state is no longer a strategic asset and the United States is tilting to the oil-rich Arab states.

Israel needs U.S. aid to provide homes and jobs for hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants, and that gives President Bush an additional diplomatic lever.

The most striking evidence of the change wrought by the end of the cold war is Syria's joining the coalition that invaded Iraq and its presence at the peace conference.

Once Moscow's staunch ally in the Middle East, Syria now must look elsewhere for financial backing.

Soviet sponsorship of hard-line Arabs has evaporated, and with it the East-West element to the Mideast dispute. Moscow has established full diplomatic relations with Israel for the first time

since 1967.

The basis of the talks, as Mr. Bush outlined them on Wednesday, is the resolution adopted by U.N. Security Council after the 1967 Middle East war, urging peace for Israel in exchange for return of captured lands.

Israel never did pull out, and talks never got going.

Then came Egypt's surprise attack on Israel across the Suez Canal on Oct. 6, 1973.

U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger invented shuttle diplomacy after the 1973 war to get Egypt, Israel and Syria to pull back from their front lines. However, an international peace conference that was to involve all the parties never got off the ground.

The 1978 Camp David talks, sponsored by President Jimmy Carter, were the previous notable attempt to find a basis for regional peace. But only Israel and Egypt signed on.

Mr. Carter, Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt agreed that Jordan should represent the Palestinian people to negotiate autonomy for the Arab populations of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but Jordan never stepped forward.

Palestinians in the occupied territories deferred to the PLO and never joined in either.

The PLO refused to recognise Israel's right to exist, and Israel rejected any contacts with the organisation it regarded as a band of terrorists.

Israel's invasion of Lebanon in

1982, followed by Syrian attacks against mainline PLO forces, routed the Palestinians. President Reagan seized the moment to offer his own peace initiative, calling for Israel to give up occupied territory to be used for a Palestinian homeland in confederation with Jordan.

Israel, angered that Mr. Reagan announced his initiative without first advising them, rejected the proposal out of hand, and Secretary of State George Shultz never found any serious interest, despite several trips to the Middle East.

Palestinians were never able to capitalise on the worldwide sympathy after the 1982 Lebanese massacre of Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in Israeli-held territory on Beirut's outskirts.

Mr. Shultz failed the following year to win a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon in conjunction with the Israelis' pullout from most of the country.

When PLO Chief Yasser Arafat in 1988 finally acceded to U.S. pressure to accept Israel's right to exist, the United States began direct talks with the organisation, but nothing developed. Washington broke off the relationship when the PLO refused to condemn terrorist acts.

Even as the Gulf war was winding down this year, Mr. Bush set his administration on the course of reorganising the region on the basis of the coalition that opposed Iraq.

With Soviet help, he had found the road to Madrid.

MADRID — The mantle of superpower leader seemed to be slipping from the shoulders of President Mikhail Gorbachev at the Madrid Middle East peace conference this week.

As he took his place amid the grandeur of the Royal Palace, Mr. Gorbachev radiated customary confidence, sitting at the T-shaped table with American co-sponsor George Bush.

"Mr. Gorbachev's presence appeared largely to be an acknowledgement of his past role and symbolic tribute to a president and a country few foreign leaders wish to see disappear from the world stage."

But all the world could see that neither Moscow nor the Soviet leader, on his first foreign visit since a failed coup, could shape future developments.

"In the past there were two big powers and the fate of the region depended on a military balance they created," Zahira Kamal, an adviser to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, said.

"But the Gulf war showed us there is now only one power and that is the United States."

Mr. Gorbachev took note of what many saw as the irony of the Soviet Union's position.

Gorbachev loses his superpower mantle in Madrid

By Ralph Boulton
 Reuters



Mikhail Gorbachev

"This conflict bears the heavy stamp of the cold war and it is not until an end was put to that, that it became possible to solve this conflict," he told delegates.

In ending cold war support for Washington's foes and opening the way to peace talks, Moscow surrendered much of its own influence over future events.

While Mr. Bush worked his way through a hectic schedule of meetings with leaders, Mr. Gorbachev rarely ventured into the limelight. Only a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the first between a Soviet and an Israeli leader since the two countries' 1967 rift, stood out.

Mr. Gorbachev's presence appeared largely to be an acknowledgement of his past role and symbolic tribute to a president and a country few foreign leaders wish to see disappear from the world stage.

Though still a nuclear power, Moscow no longer has the economic and military clout, nor the political will to preserve the influence it carved out in the Middle East, the Far East and Africa.

Financially, it lies prostrate before the West. The president is struggling to marshal republics into a new decentralised confederation and has already yielded effective economic control to

Russian Republic leader Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Bush, however, hurried to dismiss suggestions that August's attempted coup and the drastic cutback in Mr. Gorbachev's personal powers had undermined his world position.

"I sense no difference in how we talk and the frankness with which we exchange views," he said. "(I see) no difference in the respect level, at least from my point of view, towards President Gorbachev."

Mr. Gorbachev's own speech to the peace conference on Wednesday reflected his country's preoccupation with its own mounting problems.

Turmoil in the Soviet Union, he said, held greater dangers for the world than any regional conflict. "Much in the world depends on how our crisis is resolved."

He found unexpected support from a right-wing Israeli parliamentary deputy — a sign of changing times in world politics.

"The Soviet Union as it was, was the power behind the cold war in the Middle East as the main supplier of arms to hardliners," Yoash Tsiddon said. "Given the fact the cold war has petered out, they still have a role to play."

He said Moscow could exert influence on Syria, its chief ally in the region since a break with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq this year.

"Syria has no oil to speak of and relies entirely on arms made in Eastern Europe and Russia," he said.

"By keeping his hands on the tap there, Gorbachev can help moderate Syria's position," Mr. Tsiddon said.

But the Soviet Union is unlikely to exert the kind of direct pressure, Mr. Tsiddon wants. Foreign successes hold little joy for a Soviet public stricken by food shortages and economic hardship.

But Mr. Gorbachev's foreign role, however diminished, and the admiration he still enjoys overseas could yet prove decisive in tempting leaders of breakaway republics into a new political confederation under him.

Arab side is the party in more need of security guarantees

Remarks by Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber at the Madrid conference Friday 1st Nov. 1991. The text was made available to the Jordan Times by Jordan Media group.

Mr. James Baker, Secretary of State
Mr. Boris Pankin, Foreign Minister

The Jordanian position is based on sound moral grounds, adhering to principle, adhering to provisions of international law, United Nations resolutions, international legitimacy and the guarantees of the five permanent members of the Security Council, particularly the two co-sponsors. We had hoped that this would induce a sense of balance especially since we emphasized the need to structure a negotiated settlement based on an institutionalised, legal framework. Instead, it appears as if time stood still as far as Israel is concerned. We had hoped and still do, that the spirit of Madrid would cause a change of heart and attitude leading to the development of substantive position. What we heard, however, was in fact a further retreat into the old ideological molds, clearly designed to distract, worse, derail the process.

Sadly enough, what we heard was a reiteration of past positions, emphasizing yet another retrenchment, another retreat from the spirit of compromise. Positions clearly designed to obfuscate not only historical annals to fit a particular prejudice, but worse still to push the other side climb behind the rigid ideological trenches it has been attempting to scale. Surely, the Israelis must have known that when they arrived in Palestine it was not an empty territory. It was inhabited by the ancestors of the Palestinians. Even then it was already called "the land of milk and honey."

It is not our aim now, nor has it been when we first outlined our position, to indulge in a historical debate. We too have our own

vision of history and our tale of tell. And while there is soft elegance in our culture there is also fierce durability that even now has an opinion about the bold stand we have taken. We had hoped that we will get out of our past, not in the spirit of denying it. — Never — but in the hope of looking towards the future: a better, brighter future for the children of the region. We hoped that all the participants will capture the present historic moment, and live up to it, instead of a process of selective rewriting of history.

The core of the present Arab-Israeli conflict revolves around the occupied territories. To say that "... the issue is not territory" is a gross reduction of the truth. We have come here prepared to make peace within the context of a comprehensive and just peace settlement. The time has come for Israel to recognize the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people on their own territory, their ancestral homeland. No amount of denying the fact will make it disappear.

The negatives embodied in the Israeli address were in stark contrast to the willingness on the Arab side to negotiate an honourable settlement. Again Israel said: No to Palestinian self-determination, no to withdrawal from the West Bank, including Arab Jerusalem; not to withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, Jordanian territory as well as the Lebanese south. Bluntly and publicly Israel effectively declared its intention to maintain its illegal position and continue its settlement programme.

We hoped that the time may have come for Israel to overcome the heavy burden of its past wounds and to follow a path leading towards a better future. Instead it continues to cling to yesterday, nursing its mental and physical wounds. We have avoided negativism as well as code words designed to irritate, hoping to take a first step towards bridging the great divide. We had hoped to silence the call of the wild and the absolutist rhetoric.

We emphasised our vision of an honorable, durable and comprehensive peace with which we and our children can live with. We too need to look ourselves in the mirror with pride and we will. That is we based our position on 242 and 338 while we emphasized our recognition, even these were less than ultimate justice.

Jordan is irrevocably committed to the noble cause of peace and we stand ready now, as we have always been, to pay our fair share for its realisation. But, let me say it again, we are not seeking peace at any price far from it. We are seeking justice, fairness and legality.

Israel can have either land or peace, but it cannot have both. It can have the true security that comes from a negotiated political solution. Force alone will never provide security. Only when accepted by its neighbours, as part of the region, not merely in it.

Let me reiterate Jordan's position which rests on the simple and valid principle of "land for peace." That is why we call on Israel to abide by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 pertaining to the occupied territories, the Syrian Golan Heights and Lebanon.

Israel's refusal to abide by these resolutions undermines the credibility of the world body and seriously raises the issue of asymmetry and double standard, in applying international law.

The Palestinians must have and exercise the right of self-determination on their own soil. That is why the immediate

halting of the establishment of settlements is an essential prerequisite of a comprehensive regional settlement.

Not only Israel is in need of security, but every country in the region too. Considering the imbalance in the military equation, it becomes obvious that the Arab side is the party in more need of security guarantees.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We have not come to Madrid, the venue of this historic international conference simply to debate, discuss, or score points against each other. We came here with the intention of seriously considering the elements of a comprehensive peace settlement. Our approach remains constructive, and our faith and confidence in the seriousness and commitment of the co-sponsors is unshakable.

It may be very well that Israel wants peace, but it wants the Arabs alone to pay the price. Again we find it necessary to emphasize that the issue is territory: an exchange of land for peace that carries with it the promise of a brighter future going far beyond mere existence.

In firmly and clearly calling for an honourable and lasting settlement we had hoped to move the region from the past into a promising future. Instead we find that Israel still has both its feet firmly planted in the past.

Palestinians: We are not accident of history

FOLLOWING ARE extracts from the concluding remarks by chief Palestinian delegate Haidar Abdul Shafi to the final day Friday of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid:

... In his opening speech, President Bush sent a strong message, not just to the participants, but to the world as a whole — a peace pledge with the dual signs of "fairness and legitimacy" as necessary components. We were gratified, for the Palestinian peace initiative is firmly grounded in these two principles ...

The Israeli statement, however, (was) imprisoned in its own anachronistic and antagonistic rhetoric, incapable of responding to the tone and implications of the occasion ...

We further find it incomprehensible how Israel can violate with impunity the integrity of the process and the consensus of the participants ...

We came here to realise its (Security Council Resolution 242) implementation, not to indulge in exegesis or semantics or to be party to its negation or extraction from the peace agenda ...

The same terms articulated in

242 apply to East Jerusalem, which is not only occupied territory but also a universal symbol and a repository of cultural creativity, spiritual enrichment and religious tolerance ...

The gates of Jerusalem must be open. Palestinian Jerusalem is the vehicle of our self-definition and the affirmation of our uninterrupted existence on our land ...

... The issue is land, and what is at stake here is the survival of the Palestinian people on what is left of our olive groves and orchards, our terraced hills and peaceful valleys, our ancestral homes, villages and cities. International legitimacy demands the restoration of the illegally-occupied Arab and Palestinian lands to their rightful owners. Israel must recognise the concept of limits — political, legal, moral and territorial — and must decide to join the community of nations by accepting the terms of international law and the will of international community. No amount of circumlocution or self-deception can alter that fact.

"Security can never be obtained through the acquisition of other people's territory and geography is not the criterion for security ...

We, the people of Palestine, hereby offer the Israelis an alternative path to peace and security: Abandon mutual fear and mistrust, approach us as equals within a two-state solution, and let us work for the development and prosperity of our region based on mutual benefit and well-being. We have already wasted enough time, energy and resources locked in this violent embrace of mutual destruction and defensiveness ...

Settlements on confiscated Palestinian land and the expropriation of our resources will surely sabotage the process launched by this conference for they are major obstacles to peace. They constitute a flagrant violation of Palestinian rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention. All settlement activity and confiscation of Palestinian land must stop for these measures constitute the institutionalised plunder of our people's heritage and future.

The Palestinians are a people with legitimate national rights. We are not "the inhabitants of territories" or an accident of history or an obstacle to Israel's expansionist plans, or an abstract demographic problem. You may

wish to close your eyes to this fact, Mr. Shamir, but we are here in the sight of the world, before your very eyes, and we shall not be denied ...

We have already declared our acceptance of transitional phases as part of this process, provided they have the logic of internal coherence and interconnection, within a specified, limited time frame and without prejudicing the permanent status. During the transitional phase, Palestinians must have meaningful control over decisions affecting their lives and fate. During this phase, the immediate repatriation of the 1967 displaced persons and the reunion of separated families can be carried out ...

On these grounds, we hereby publicly and solemnly call upon the co-sponsors of the conference, directly or through the United Nations, to place the whole of the occupied Palestinian territories under their trusteeship pending a final settlement ...

They are the same people, our Palestinian people, who have celebrated the occasion of this conference by offering olive branches to the Israeli occupation soldiers ...

Baker warns

(Continued from page 1)

peace conference to get agreement on the next stage. The final conference session began two hours late while they shuffled between the parties in their unsuccessful search for a compromise.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Pankin said they favoured beginning the talks this weekend in Madrid and would find a refusal by any party to attend as incomprehensible.

The statement appeared to leave Israel isolated and under tremendous pressure to give way. The invitations to the peace conference said the bilateral negotiations should begin four days after the beginning of the conference.

Mr. Baker said Sunday was the soonest possible date for the talks to begin but there was no certainty they would start then. He personally planned to leave Madrid Sunday evening.

Mr. Baker said the Soviet Union and United States would continue to consult with the parties to get agreement on the venue.

"From the perspective of the co-sponsors and indeed from the perspective of most of the rest of the world, it would be very difficult to understand how a party could now refuse to attend bilateral negotiations simply because of a disagreement over the site," Mr. Baker said.

Mr. Baker sternly lectured the delegates, who earlier in the day clashed bitterly in a welter of mutual accusations and recriminations.

"When you walk out of these doors, you carry with you great responsibilities," Mr. Baker said. "You carry with you the responsibility to your peoples to seek peace. You carry with you the responsibility to the world ... for if you do not seize this historic opportunity, no one will blame anyone outside your region."

But in his news conference, he said the United States had expected the parties to stake out tough positions.

"For the most part, what we've seen in Madrid is what you might have expected," he said.

"I felt we saw some of the emotions that both sides feel so deeply," he added.

Mr. Baker said the United States and the Soviet Union would be involved in the bilateral talks only if invited by the parties but would not be able to force them to make peace.

King: Everybody sincere for peace

(Continued from page 1)

to mix in conditions of peace and security that all of us are trying to attain and achieve.

"Regarding Palestinian-Jordanian relations, they are very, very close, very, very special. We in Jordan have been on the receiving end of every disaster that has been the fortune of our Palestinian brethren throughout the long and tragic history of this case so far. I believe that we are close together. I believe that we have a feeling that we have to rely on ourselves. I believe that there is a commitment towards building our future together and the ties are certainly strong."

"Certainly, even, in this process, in this conference in particular, we began with the umbrella of the joint delegation of both peoples. Now regarding the future, I think it can be determined by free people who have a chance to express themselves, but I am sure that the ties are very strong and so real that something will be worked out and hopefully it will be an

Mideast conference

(Continued from page 2)

went very well, according to delegates, and the U.S. president promised continued support for Jordan, including on the issue of lifting the blockade against Aqaba. Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, the head of the Jordanian side to the joint delegation, attended the meeting, and he too described it as "very warm and very productive." The Jordanian team was last night meeting with the Soviet foreign minister and holding discussions with Arab delegates to coordinate strategy on the issue of bilateral talks.


Mr. Baker was quoted by Jordanian delegates as saying that the multilateral regional talks were expected to be held in three weeks' time "by whoever wishes to attend them."

Mideast conference

(Continued from page 2)

example to many others in this area and in the world when that happens. On regional issues, the King said: "It is about time we took into consideration everything is happening in our universe, in this world and to move with the times, to move to leave future generations something that is worthwhile, their security, their dignity, their humanity. Certainly weapons of mass destruction are an area that has to be addressed soon, but beyond the question of only weapons, there are very very urgent problems that are upon us all: The question of water, the question of how do we put together in this entire region. How do we move away from the area of confusion and uncertainty and hatred and fear and suspicion? How do we recreate, how do we create a better future for the generation to come within this entire region. I agree with that the region should move away from the dire need for these weapons in any event. Probably reducing arms in the region is a must. The question is not the question of accumulating arms any more."

Mr. Baker was quoted by Jordanian delegates as saying that the multilateral regional talks were expected to be held in three weeks' time "by whoever wishes to attend them."



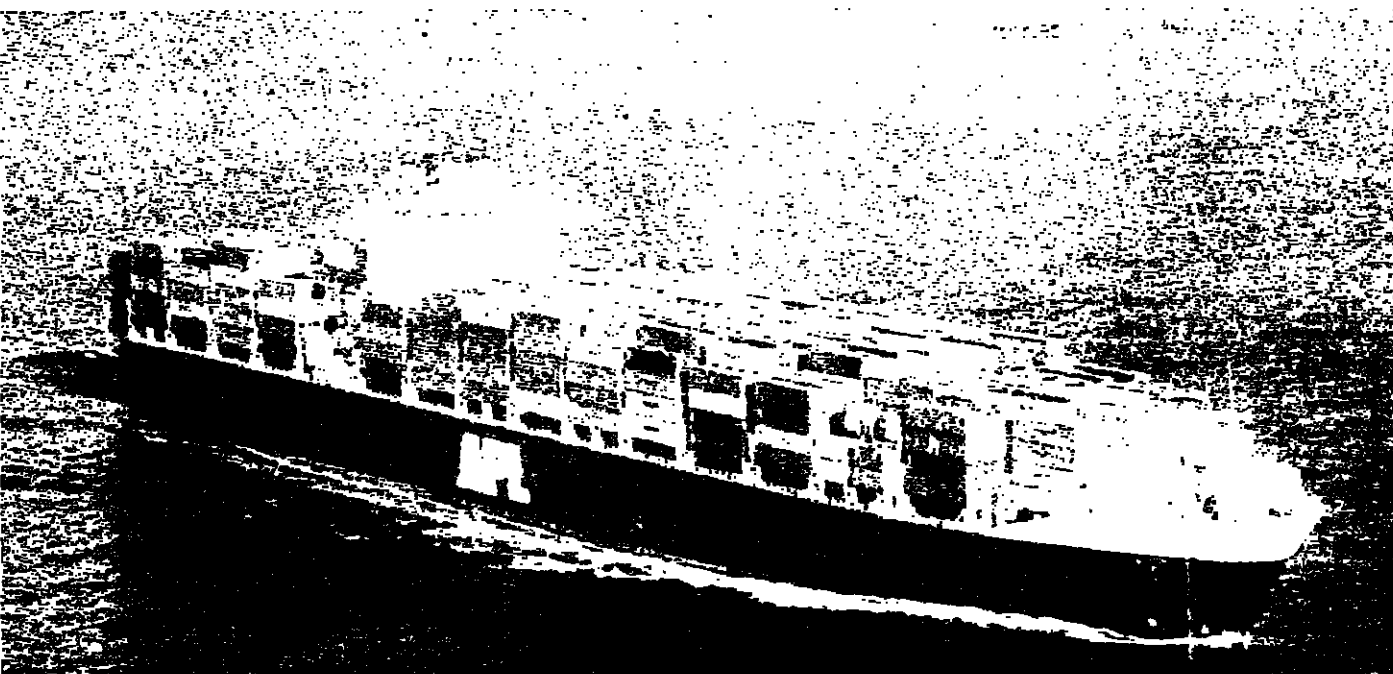
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Syria: No bargaining over 242, 338

The following is the full text of Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa address at the Madrid peace conference Thursday, Oct. 31.

Distinguished Co-Chairmen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin my statement at this opening session of the peace conference by addressing my deep thanks to His Majesty, King Juan Carlos and to the government and people of Spain for hosting this historic conference and for all the facilities and care they have offered participating delegations. On behalf of my country, Syria, its president, government and people I would like to express our deep appreciation to this friendly country, Spain, with which we enjoy deep-rooted historic, human and cultural ties, whose manifestations are still alive and bright to this very day.

I would also like to express my thanks to the co-sponsors of the conference, the United States of America and the Soviet Union for the determination they have demonstrated to convene this conference at the date proposed by President George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

In this context, I would like to express my appreciation for the great efforts of President Bush supported by President Gorbachev, which were the preeminent factor in imparting to the peace process unprecedented momentum and seriousness. Consequently, this conference cannot be considered a ceremonial event, as one of the participating parties had wanted. Rather, it is an international event which has aroused interest in the entire world.

In addition, I cannot fail to recall the sustained personal efforts of Secretary of State James Baker during his eight visits to our region, particularly the important, lengthy and frank talks he held in Damascus. These talks, by their seriousness and the positive atmosphere which surrounded them, have, indeed, helped to make the convening of this peace conference possible.

It must be emphasized at this point that the role of Europe in the peace process is both important and vital. Europe is geographically close to our region. Security in one region cannot fail to affect that of the other while both share common interests.

The role of the United Nations, regardless of the status allotted it in this conference, remains important; as long as the objective of the peace process is to reach a comprehensive, just and peaceful settlement within the framework of international legitimacy and on the basis of United Nations resolutions; and as long as the results reached by the parties are to be sanctioned by the Security Council.

The convening of this peace conference in this beautiful country, Spain, evokes boundless symbols, meanings and images. The peoples of the entire world, not only the people of our region, are buffeted by conflicting feelings towards this conference, feelings fluctuating between success and failure, between optimism in achieving peace and the pessimism of a regression to conflict and confrontation. It is no exaggeration to state that the continuing intransigent Israeli position, which is bereft of any justification, is the one that places the world on the brink of incalculable dangers and prevents the region from enjoying peace.

The Arabs, throughout their long history, have always advocated peace, justice and tolerance. Their history, both ancient and modern, abounds with evidence of this fact. The Jews, and oriental Jews in particular, know better than anyone that they have lived among Muslim Arabs throughout history wherever they co-existed without ever suffering any form of persecution or discrimination; either racial or religious. Rather, they have always lived in grace and dignity, participating in all walks of life. The Jews have never known security, tolerance and equality approximating the security, tolerance and equality they have enjoyed in the lands of Arabs and Muslims. Any one perusing the pages of history today will realise the blatant contrast between this tolerance and full equality with which the Arabs treated the Jews for hundreds of years, on the one hand, and the persecution, injustice and discrimination inflicted on the Arabs — particularly Palestinian Arabs — languishing under Israeli occupation, on the other.

Suffice it to recall — if only the reminder were heeded — that had Israel's political orientation since 1948 been humane, millions of Arabs: Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese, would not have been uprooted from their homes; nor would they have been denied — until today — their right to return. Had Israel's policies

not been settler-colonialist, Palestinians languishing under Israeli occupation since 1967 would not have been denied all their fundamental rights, foremost among which is their right to self-determination. It is that very right, that the Palestinians — children, women and the elderly — have steadfastly expressed through their peaceful intifada during the past four years as seen and heard by the entire world. The continuing denial of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people will lead this people to believe that resorting to violence alone is the most viable means of achieving that right.

The list of evidence of inhuman Israeli practices is long and documented. These are practices which were condemned by dozens of resolutions adopted by the United Nations. These are practices of which the Israelis are tacitly cognizant. They are known to many a fair-minded historian and journalist in the West, although some do not dare address these practices frankly and unequivocally for reasons which are regrettably not known to wide sections of European and U.S. public opinion. First among these reasons is that Jewish extremists both inside and outside Israel harass those writers and journalists and jeopardise their livelihoods and future. If they happen to be Christian they are accused of being anti-Semitic. But if they are Arabs and Muslim it is easiest to accuse them — without any evidence whatsoever — of terrorism and the intention of destroying Israel. Contrary to every law and norm, the burden of proof in the minds of these extremists is incumbent on the accused. Thus the innocent becomes a suspect in the eyes of a large sector of Western public opinion. The aggressors who have usurped the land of others by force thus become the advocates of peace, whereas the victims of aggressions who demand the return of their occupied land and their usurped rights become terrorists and destructive warmongers.

Distinguished Co-Chairmen,

We have never carried the banner of war and destruction. Syria, has consistently called for the achievement of comprehensive and just peace on the basis of United Nations resolutions. We have always emphasised our sincere intention and serious desire for peace. As the height of the October war President Hafez Al Assad said:

We do not revel in death and destruction, instead, we are repulsed by death and destruction. We are not aggressors and we have never been, but we have and continue to repel aggression. We do not wish death on any one, but we are protecting our people from death. We love freedom and wish it both for ourselves and for others.

Peace and the usurpation of the land of others cannot co-exist. For peace to be stable and durable it must encompass all parties to the conflict on all fronts. Developments in our region have proved this fact. Israel exploited the signing of its peace with Egypt in 1979 to then proceed to annexing Jerusalem in 1980, the Golan in 1981 and invading Lebanon in 1982. It is clear that Israel perpetrated this series of aggressive acts at a pace that exceeds the pace of its withdrawal from the Egyptian Sinai.

In the aftermath of each act of aggression the Security Council was called upon to convene and resolutions were unanimously adopted: Resolution 476 declaring the annexation of Jerusalem as null and void; Resolution 497 declaring the imposition of Israeli laws in the Golan as being null and void and with no international legal validity; and Resolution 425 calling for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

However, as was the case with Resolution 242 and 338, these resolutions were not implemented at the time due to Israeli rejection and intransigence and due to the atmosphere of the cold war between East and West. Now, as the cold war has come to an end, as the spirit of confrontation and competition between the United States and the Soviet Union has given way to a new stage of reconciliation and cooperation, and as the peace conference has convened, the peoples of our region and of the world at large await the implementation of these resolutions at the earliest date through serious and productive talks.

It is noteworthy to point out in this context that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on the basis of which the peace conference is being convened, were adopted as a compromise among the permanent member states of the Security Council. As it is well known, the majority of these states have been sympathetic to Israel since its creation. Hence, the implementation of these two resolutions should not be the subject of new

bargaining during bilateral negotiations. Rather, they should be implemented in all their provisions and on all fronts. Resolution 242 emphasises in its preamble the principle of "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war." This means that every inch of Arab land occupied by the Israelis by war and force; the Golan, the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip must be returned in their entirety to their legitimate owners. International public opinion is aware more than ever before — and especially following the Gulf crisis — that double standards are no longer acceptable in this age; that the principles of international law, not the law of the jungle must be respected, and that United Nations resolutions, not brute force must be applied.

At last, the states of the world have come to realise that Israel along resists the efforts for peace with all the influence it can muster. It is Israel which perpetuates its occupation of the territories of others by force. All have come to realise that Israel follows a futile and obsolete ideology based on expansion; the building of settlements and the uprooting of Arabs from land in which they had lived for centuries in order to replace them with new immigrants who have never lived in this region.

In this regard, Syria would like to remind the co-sponsors of the conference, and through them the international community, that Israeli occupation of Syrian and Palestinian territories has resulted in uprooting approximately half a million Syrian citizens from the Golan who have to date not been able to return. The occupation has also resulted in the presence of over a quarter of a million Palestinian refugees in Syria who are denied the right to return to the homeland of their fathers and forebears in Palestine.

The claims invoked by Israel for the migration of world Jewry to it at the expense of the native Arab population are not sanctioned by any legal or humanitarian principle. If the entire world were to adopt such claims it would have to encourage all Christians to emigrate to the Vatican and all Muslims to holy Mecca.

It is a contradiction in terms that Israel refuses to implement United Nations Resolution 194 of 1948 which provides for the return of all Palestinian refugees to their homes and for compensation to those who do not wish to return, under the pretext that there is not enough land. Yet, at the same time, Israel continues to induce hundreds of thousands of new Jewish immigrants to settle in this very land and to abandon their lands of origin such as the Soviet Union, which extends over one sixth of our planet's land mass.

We believe that the time for inconsistencies and empty pretends whose only aim is to justify the perpetuation of occupation and annexation has now passed. We believe that all parties, both aggressors and victims now stand at the threshold of a historic opportunity — which may not come about again — an opportunity to end long decades of destructive conflicts and to establish a durable, comprehensive and just peace that would deliver the region from the vicious circle of war and usher in a new era in which the peoples of the region may, devote themselves to its prosperity and development.

In order for a just peace to be established no Arab land must remain under Israeli occupation, nor can the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination remain denied.

If the objective is truly for the peoples and the states of the region to co-exist; to enjoy security, peace, and prosperity; to place their plentiful energies and resources at the service of their economies and development... how can such a desirable objective logically be realised without eliminating occupation and restoring legitimate rights?

The Arabs have given much for peace. They have openly declared that they desire peace. They merely demand the enjoyment of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations to all peoples and which have been recognised by the international community and the world at large for every people.

Along among all the states of the world Israel insists on maintaining its hold on the Arab territories which it occupied by force under the pretext of security; as if geographic expansion can guarantee security in this age of scientific and technological advancement. Were the world to emulate this Israeli logic how many wars and conflicts will arise between neighbouring states under that pretext?

The Arabs have responded to the call of the co-sponsors of the conference in appreciation of their efforts and serious endeavour to work towards a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

However, Israel would be gravely mistaken were it to interpret

this Arab response as a licence for it to perpetuate its intransigent stands within the conference or any of its committees. Israel would also be doing itself an injustice — more so than to others — if it were to take lightly the peace process or the unanimous international wish to reach a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the criteria of international legitimacy as well as the spirit and letter of the charter of the United Nations and its resolutions.

Despite Syria's numerous reservations concerning the format and terms of reference of this conference, the Syrian Arab delegation has come here to attempt to reach a comprehensive, honourable and just peace to all aspects and fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our delegation has come carrying inexhaustible reserves of good will, a genuine serious desire for a just peace and determination to help enable this peace process succeed and reach its noble objective. That determination is only equalled by a no less determination to reject any attempt to exploit the current peace process to legitimise that which is illegitimate and unacceptable according to the United Nations, its charter and resolutions; or to obtain any gains — however small — which would mirror the abhorrent injustice of aggression or which would reward the aggressor.

This firm Syrian position whose every element is anchored in the principles of international legitimacy and resolutions of the United Nations deems it imperative for Israel to withdraw from every inch of the occupied Syrian Golan, Jerusalem, the Gaza district and the South Lebanon. This position also deems it imperative to safeguard the legitimate political and national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is their right to self-determination.

The building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories is an illegal action; it is considered null and void and it stands as a major obstacle in the way of peace. Thus, it is imperative that the settlements be removed. The continuation of settlement activity in the Arab occupied territories, particularly since the peace process has commenced, is tangible evidence that Israel does not want to reach genuine peace.

Distinguished Co-Chairmen,

Syria's acceptance of President Bush's initiative which is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of "land for peace" has opened the way to the peace process — as has been acknowledged by all. Our presence as participants in this conference embodies our desire to achieve comprehensive and just peace. Our agreement to undertake bilateral talks is clear indication of our serious contribution to building a genuine and comprehensive peace in the region.

However, concern for the success of the peace process requires that multilateral talks which do not fall within the framework of Resolution 242 not be initiated until substantive and concrete achievement has been made in bilateral negotiations which would confirm the elimination of the major obstacles on the road to peace. That is because Israel — as everyone knows — is not interested in implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 on the basis of the principle of "land for peace." Israel is only interested in entering into negotiations on economic cooperation with the states of the region while perpetuating its occupation of Arab territories. This is in contradiction with the objective on which convening of this conference was based.

Distinguished Co-Chairmen,

We have come for an honourable and just peace based on international law and legitimacy. We have not come for a false peace which reflects the conditions imposed by the aggressor and the yoke of occupation.

We have come for a genuine peace encompassing all the fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict and not for a peace which would address one aspect of the conflict, to then merely cause new conflicts and tensions in the region.

Proceeding from our belief in such a peace we confidently and resolutely declare our determination to work towards a comprehensive, just and peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict which would liberate the land, and guarantee the national rights of the Palestinian people as well as security for all.

Were the peace conference to succeed in achieving these objectives, which are the focus of world expectations, it would herald a new dawn in our turbulent region and the beginning of a new era of peace, prosperity and stability.

Lebanon demands Israel halt raids, pullout of south

The following is the text of the address made by Fares Bouteh, the Lebanese minister of Foreign Affairs at the Middle East international peace conference in Madrid Thursday.

Mr. James Baker, secretary of state of the United States of America, Mr. Boris Pankin, minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union, excellencies, heads of delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the pleasure, in the name of the President of the Republic of Lebanon, His Excellency Mr. Elias Hrawi and on behalf of the Government of Lebanon to extend my deepest thanks to Spain, to His Majesty the King, to his majesty's government and to the Spanish people for hosting this conference on this land steeped in history.

I would also like to convey my thanks to the Spanish authorities and administration for their meticulous organisation and for the effective arrangement which they have successfully implemented in a very short space of time, responding thereby to the unanimity of all concerned to hold this conference in this beautiful capital Madrid.

Such unanimity and warm greeting are but a proof of the trust placed by the world and by us in this great country, the seat of a rich civilisation of which visible evidence abounds.

This unanimity embodies everyone's desire that Spain be the place which the hopes of the people of the world converge and that the triumph over instinct, the upholding of right, justice and reason and the search for peace be the loftiest standards of civilisation.

This conference held under the title of peace is without any doubt of paramount importance and can become possibly the most important gathering since the second world war. Peace is the aspiration of humanity, the end sought by peoples the world over, the purpose for which all religions, philosophies and ideologies strive.

Conscious of the importance of this conference, it is our duty to express our deep gratitude to the United States of America and the Soviet Union for their unstinting efforts to hold this conference.

We also appreciate the efforts made by States and other parties who supported the convening of the conference and are sincerely contributing to its success.

Our praise is due to the efforts pursued by Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev to convene this conference and for the time they devoted to it in spite of numerous other problems in the world.

I would like to mention particularly Minister Boris Pankin who followed and lent his support to the efforts aimed at holding the conference and to Secretary James Baker who devoted his exceptional skills and capacities to the achievement of this major accomplishment thus demonstrating rare determination and ability.

I would like also to extend my thanks to Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez for his valued speech and the European Community for being here with us and for its firm position which was expressed by Minister Van den Broek, acting president of its council of ministers.

Lebanon, a country which believed in the message of peace, tolerance and coexistence, a country which practised openness and understanding and nurtured the exchange of ideas and knowledge, welcomes this historic opportunity to let peace prevail

in a region whence religions, laws and civilisations emanated and which gave birth to thought and philosophies, witnessed the pharaohs and the advent of Abraham, Jesus Christ and Mohammad, the sons, companions, prophets and Imams. Pyramids, sanctuaries, temples, churches, mosques were erected, to which Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Mecca and Najaf bear witness.

It is a land where civilisations interacted, the Sumerian, Phoenician, Pharaonic, Babylonian, Greek, Byzantine, Ottoman and Arab and where the outlines of temples intermingled with the pillars of sanctuaries and the engravings in churches.

This is where the history of the world and its conscience lie.

It contains for every man, wherever he may be, an element of his identity. It is the patrimony of humanity and we are but guardians of its sanctuaries and protectors of its heritage. From here springs our glory. We are its custodians as generations go by. Lebanon is proud of its Arab identity which binds it to countries with which it has a common history, language, culture and destiny.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we have come from a land small in size, modest in terms of population, not particularly endowed with natural resources but large in the aspirations of its people, rich in civilisation, great in terms of its contribution to the world to whom it gave the alphabet, also culture and knowledge.

We have come to you today from a land which was and still remains a beacon of science to the world in all its dimensions such as, the Beirut Roman School of Law, Justinian and Papius and up to our universities our writers, our poets, and our thinkers to this day.

We have come to you today from a land whose sons have crossed seas and deserts towards the five continents and distant lands, where they integrated into other societies, formed friendships with their fellow men, built and prospered.

We have come from a land coveted by greed where doctrines and policies went into conflict, where cultures and philosophies collided, so much so that it was said that the country had vanished for ever.

Wars tore it asunder, wars waged by others on its soil. For 16 years our country bled. Some said it had died. The number of mourners increased. The concept of Libanisation was born to mean countries agonising and peoples being torn apart. Here is Lebanon, like the phoenix, rising from its ashes, belying those who betted on its demise and played the card of its annihilation.

Here is Lebanon today in spite of the deep wounds and the bitter trial returning to the family of nations reaffirming that it is too strong to be liquidated and too large to be struck off the map or forgotten, more steadfast than a mere transitional or temporary state. Here it is to stay and to watch the reapings of the will of its sons rebuff wave after wave. It is here in spite of all predictions, calculations, pessimistic analysis as if it alone knows that its fate is to live and its mission to continue.

The message, if at all, of the Lebanese war is that the Lebanese formula will not fade away because it, is founded up inevitability of conviviality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have heard a great deal about Lebanon. No doubt, you

know that this small country has practised and lived the great human experiment which the international community is about to enter into.

You know that all divine religions, their sects and ramifications exist in Lebanon which presented an ideal opportunity for all ideas and doctrines by they political, philosophical or social, to meet and interact. The prevailing climate of democracy and individual and social freedom was the real guarantee enabling one to live and to practice these experiences. For this viewpoint, We in Lebanon are in a position to enrich the concept of the new world order and to consolidate its foundations. This we say in the light of our bitter experience which has shown that the various ideas, doctrines and religions cannot but live together.

The concept of the new world order although not clearly defined as yet, would derive benefit from our experience and will be based on the unshakable realities of the societies it seeks to encompass and on the necessity of coexistence.

Having paid the price of the international and regional conflicts which were reflected on our soil, we have set out on the path to internal peace and have succeeded in carrying out a number of essential and important tasks thereby surprising everyone. The challenge and the dream came together. We first set up a government of national unity which adopted and applied the Taif agreement. We also introduced a number of constitutional amendments to ensure a wider and more globally based political participation of all the components of the Lebanese formula. The state undertook to dissolve the militias and collect their weapons, artificial barriers which had split areas, sects and parties were dismantled and the Lebanese were assimilated again into society thus rejecting the separation which had been forced upon them.

The state then started rebuilding its national, security and administrative institutions, the army regained its unity and began to deploy, spreading the authority of the Lebanese state on most of its territory thus paving the way for Lebanese sovereignty to be exercised on Lebanese soil.

All this took place in a brief span of time with modest means compensated only by the support of some of our brothers and friends. Lebanon proved once again it was capable of overcoming its trials and tribulations and astonish the world. Miracles are easy when destiny is at stake. The state did all it could on the home front and frustrated a number of claims such as: Lebanon cannot be unified or cannot take a national decision. But our great endeavour will not totally succeed as long as there are pending questions which go beyond our internal borders and touch upon regional as well as international factors.

Events have shown that Lebanon is whole and cannot be fragmented. The South and the North, the Bekaa, Beirut and the mountains are all part of it. Deprived of any of its areas, it would lose a vital limb, bleed for ever, struggle and vent its rage on every part of the world. This rage often turning into resistance against occupation.

Violent acts increased, their victims were to be found among the Lebanese and non Lebanese alike. This violence though painful at times was nothing but an anguished expression of passionate determination to let justice prevail.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Events have proved that South Lebanon, in particular, can

detonate a conflagration of the entire situation, that its sons would express their wrath as long as they have to suffer the yoke of occupation and as long as United Nations resolutions and International Laws which guarantee a solution to the problem are ignored and not respected.

This occupation and the accompanying events and developments have cost Lebanon and the world dearly.

Every country has, one way or the other, paid the price of Israeli occupation of the South.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lebanon was and still is a peace loving country, cofounder of the United Nations Organisation, president of one of the sessions of the General Assembly and contributor to the establishment of several International Organisations namely the International Court of Justice of which it was a member. It also took part in the drafting of the International Covenant of Human Rights.

Lebanon adheres to international legitimacy, and abides by U.N. Security Council and General Assembly resolutions as well as the rules of International Law.

Lebanon calls for a new international order where principles of law, rejection of aggression and peaceful settlement of disputes, prevail.

Lebanon attaches great importance to the implementation of Resolution 425 since the Armistice agreement of 1949 still governs the situation with Israel. Article 8 provides "that this agreement shall remain in force until both parties reach a peaceful settlement."

It is for all these reasons that Lebanon has sought and still seeks to apply Security Council Resolution 425 of 19 March 1978 which calls for strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognised boundaries.

It also calls upon Israel to cease its military action against Lebanese territorial integrity and withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese lands.

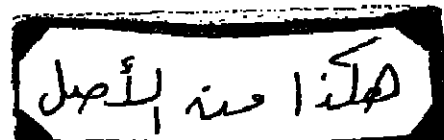
The resolution decided to establish immediately an interim force for South Lebanon under the authority of the United Nations for the purpose of confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security and assisting the government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

Although Resolution 425 met obstacles which prevented its immediate, total and unconditional implementation, in keeping with the letter of its text, due to the persistent refusal by Israel to implement it, these have only redoubled Lebanon's insistence on its literal application.

Lebanon views the implementation of this resolution as a challenge to and a test of the sincerity of the international community which must demonstrate seriousness in complying with its own resolutions and in finding the necessary elements to implement both letter and spirit of that document.

The implementation of this resolution would show clearly that the international community does not apply double standards, that what is true of its compliance with international law and its respect of the sovereignty exercised by independent states on their territory extends to all regions and all cases without any discrimination.

(Continued on page 7)



Lebanon demands Israel halt raids, pullout of south

(Continued from page 6)

I must, in this respect, remind you that Lebanon was the first Arab country to condemn the aggression on Kuwait. Lebanon never faltered one instant throughout the crisis. Its position was based on the principle of the sovereignty and independence of states even though Lebanon found it difficult to apply International Law by force to a fraternal Arab country albeit an aggressor.

The Lebanese government who wishes this conference total success would like to assure you that it will spare no effort to have Resolution 425 implemented whatever path this conference may follow and whatever its final results may be. We have notified the two cosponsors of this conference, the United Nations and the Soviet Union, that our acceptance of the invitation to attend was predicated on this position. Here I would like to praise the numerous friendly countries which have supported our position, namely the United States of America which has notified us in writing of its firm position which is that the total implementation of Resolution 425 does not depend upon a comprehensive solution in the region nor is it linked to it, even though such a solution would enhance peace and stability in Lebanon.

Resolution 425 is a separate and complete resolution, comprising an inherent detailed mechanism for its implementation. It is in no way linked to any of the efforts being pursued to apply the international resolutions related to the question of the Arab territories occupied in 1967 namely resolutions 242 and 338.

We wish these efforts to come to a successful, rapid and total conclusion but as we do so we reiterate that Lebanon is concerned above all with the total liberation of its territory. Lebanon accepts no substitute to Resolution 425 and expects that the search for peace and the emerging signs of the new international order will contribute towards eliminating the obstacles which stand in the way of its implementation and will overcome once and for all the procrastination experienced in enforcing it.

Upon implementation of Resolution 425 Lebanon will firmly undertake to control the security on its internationally recognised border and will preempt any security breaches thereby removing any justification for acts of resistance against the occupation.

The borders themselves are covered by Resolution 425 which is based on the Armistice Agreement of 1949. They are internationally recognised and can in no way be subject of negotiations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lebanon is situated in the Middle East. It has embraced the

region's thoughts, beliefs, creeds and philosophies. It has also suffered from the conflicts which have swept it. More than others, the Lebanese are aware, their country being at the crossroads of East and West, where land meets sea, that there can be no real peace if peace is not comprehensive and does not encompass all its peoples and parts.

Peace will be enjoyed by no one in the region if volcanoes are still erupting on our borders, if peoples are still oppressed and rights are still violated.

Lebanon, cofounder and active member of the League of Arab States is committed to the Arab cause and in particular to the cause of the Palestinian people, its right to self determination, to return to its land, to free the Arab occupied territories and to establish a just peace in the region.

Lebanon is keen to ascertain its solidarity with the Arab position calling for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 which form the basis for this conference in the sense of the formula "land for peace." The pursuance of the settlement policy will definitely have an adverse effect on all peace efforts in the region. As for the Palestinian problem which is at the heart of the Middle East conflict, its global and just solution would allow the region to enjoy what it deserves in terms of stability, security and tranquility. This applies particularly to our country Lebanon, which has paid the highest price because of the expulsion of the Palestinian people from its homeland. Lebanon itself was the target of two large scale Israeli invasions in 1978 and 1982 which have taken an enormous toll in human life and property. I regret to remind you that Israeli attacks on my country, Lebanon, have not ceased but rather continued until yesterday and are perhaps being carried out now as I speak to you. Lebanon, with its small territory not exceeding 10,400 km, with its social, political and economic structure and its modest natural resources was able, with difficulty, to shelter displaced Palestinians while awaiting the settlement of their cause. But Lebanon will not be able to provide them with the basic necessities of a decent life, nor include them without suffering a negative impact on its internal situation. This would in turn lead to conflict and struggle in order to satisfy basic, social, economic and even political requirements on its land. This is why Lebanon cautions against any attempt to solve the Palestinian problem by settling the Palestinians on a narrow strip of land where a large population is living within a delicate and sensitive balance. There the struggle for survival would become dangerous, it will not give Palestine back to its people and would lead to the very loss of Lebanon. Settlement project ignore the fact that peoples belong to their land and are attached to it. In this region of the world, the

land is the source of identity, love for the homeland is an article of faith and authenticity is rooted in the land.

The land for the Lebanese, Palestinian and Arab peoples is intimately linked to their identity, heritage, authenticity and origin. Relinquishing this will forever be in the minds of these peoples a justification for rancour, frustration and revolt.

The situation is further exacerbated when citizens are uprooted from their homeland, their birthplace, under various unrealistic slogans, cut off from their environment, their culture, the soil they tilled, their achievements, to be forced in their hundreds of thousands to leave wide expanses of land and faraway continents in order to be settled on a narrow band of territory which is the object of contention and fighting, a country they did not know and to which they are not realistically linked. By this I mean the Soviet citizens who are being pushed into emigration and are being uprooted from their natural environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The time has come for the Middle East to become part of the new world order. The time has come for the peoples of this region of the world to know what peace and a happy life can mean.

The time has come for this region where religions, civilisations, cultures and peoples coexisted in peace to find its authenticity. The time has come for individual and collective energies to be set free in order to serve development and prosperity.

The time has come for the peoples of the region to become an active component of the international order rather than being a burden for it and a source of anxiety for its members.

The time has come for this region to be the rule of International law rather than its exception.

The time has come for this region to be again a bridge between continents instead of being a barrier to their coming together.

The time has come for the peoples of the region with their authenticity and their heritage to rediscover and to play their historic role in reaching out for human horizons and shaping their future.

The time has come for the peoples of this region to free themselves from the ruthless state of permanent mobilisation which was imposed on them and which has undermined their natural development and wasted their potential on wars and armies.

The time has come for the peoples of the region to provide the means of their own development rather than rely on precarious and transient foreign sources for survival.

The time has come for all to see that the balance of power is

transient and can be altered.

The time has come to seize upon historic opportunities and to replace sterile assessments with healthy analysis.

The people of the region, we assure you, are faced today with an historic opportunity which will not always present itself. Before them lies the chance to come out of their introversion, a chance brought about by exceptional, favourable and rare circumstances as well as considerable efforts and perhaps even fate.

The conflict was so long and so acute that people became accustomed to the logic of strife and discord and enclosed themselves in it. Any venture for peace by any leader deserves to be valued, praised and supported in the face of refusal by rejectionists and outbidding of profiteers. Were we to lose this rare opportunity and were we to fail to respond to those who decided to seize upon it and chose to resist the easy temptation or extremism, the propensity to aggression and to give in to instincts, we shall bear the responsibility of history and future generations will hold us to account. The alternative to success in our attempt to reach peace through this conference is lurking behind the door. It lies in the conviction which will spread in the area that peace is impossible and openness sterile. It lies in the belief which will spread in the region that the failure of this historic endeavour will close the door to any new venture in the foreseeable future.

It lies in the conviction which will prevail in that part of the world that political, religious or sectarian extremism is the only way to resist oppression and injustice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us stand behind the rational and the wise, let us foil the stakes of despair, rancour and hatred.

Lebanon has emerged from the hell of overlapping wars waged on its soil. Lebanon is recovering its health, sovereignty and historical role. Lebanon is committed to the success of this conference and to upholding justice. Lebanon would simply like to say to you the following:

No to the balance of terror.

Yes to the concerted forces of peace.

No to injustice and imbalance.

Yes to the triumph of peace.

May God guide our steps and inspire us.

Thank you

Baker: U.S., Soviets determined to achieve peace

Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the Middle East peace conference Nov. 1, 1991. The text was made available to the Jordan Times by Jordan Media Group.

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Over the last eight months, many people in the region have exerted great efforts and contributed in many ways to make this conference and negotiations possible. All of you in this hall fall into that category. But there are some who are not here now, individuals who have made essential contributions to the process, without which in my view this conference would not have happened. In this regard, I want to pay tribute:

— To President Mubarak of Egypt, who was a confident advisor, friend and advocate for this process from the very beginning.

— To King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who demonstrated by word and deed that new opportunities for Arab-Israeli peace existed after the Gulf war, and who personified this new approach in the Arab world.

— To President Assad of Syria, whose assurance to me that Syria had made an historic choice and decision in favour of peace, and whose early commitment to this process, both proved to be vital.

— To King Hussein of Jordan, whose courage, leadership and willingness to commit publicly and quickly in support of this process transformed the dynamics in the region.

— To Prime Minister Shamir of Israel, whose steady determination and strong leadership proved essential in reaching agreement to convene this conference and to launch direct bilateral negotiations for real peace between Israel and its neighbours.

— To Foreign Minister Levy of Israel, who was determined to develop an active and meaningful peace process and who worked creatively to overcome obstacles in our path.

— To President Hrawi of Lebanon, who has worked to re-establish central authority in his war-torn country, which is a necessary step toward peace in the region.

— To Palestinians with whom I met, like Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi, whose personal courage in the face of enormous pressures has created the possibility of a better life for Palestinians.

Even in a period of dramatic and far-reaching change around the world, this conference stands apart. Fourteen days ago, President Bush and President Gorbachev invited Israel, the Arab states and Palestinians to this peace conference and to direct negotiations that follow. In response to that invitation, Israel, Jordan, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon agreed to attend the conference and to participate in the direct negotiations. In addition, the European Community, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania agreed to participate in this process.

This conference demonstrates vividly the end of the cold war and the flowering of U.S.-Soviet partnership in resolving regional conflicts. Where we once competed, we now cooperate. Where there was once polarisation, there is now coordination. What was once unthinkable — the United States and the Soviet Union co-sponsoring a process of peace in the Middle East — became a reality this week.

Our work — making peace through negotiations — has just begun. As we look at the challenges ahead, it is worth noting and learning from what we have already accomplished.

For decades, agreement on whether to negotiate eluded the parties. This weekend, negotiations should begin on the accepted basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

For decades, agreement on how to negotiate eluded the parties. This weekend, negotiations will begin on two tracks and in phases; and in a few weeks, those parties who wish to participate will convene to organise multilateral negotiations on a wide range of issues that affect the well being of all peoples in the region.

These are not mere platitudes. During these eight months of diplomacy, though the parties sometimes fell back on old slogans and outmoded code words, they also came to understand the need to engage concretely and pragmatically to resolve problems. I said often that the parties would probably stake out maximum positions, especially as they got closer to negotiations.

This is not surprising, especially in a public forum. The key, however, is to get beyond the rhetoric and into the direct negotiations.

Fundamentals of American Policy

A basic tenet of American thinking is that negotiations are the best way to resolve disputes and achieve peace. Negotiations do not guarantee peace. But without negotiations, there is no way to produce genuine peace and no mechanism to develop understandings that can endure.

Let the United States be willing to be a catalytic force, an energising force, and a driving force in the negotiating process. Our involvement in this process will be rooted solidly in the core principles enunciated by President Bush last March. They will remain the cornerstone that guides our participation in the negotiating process.

Let the U.S. be an honest broker. We have our own positions and views on the peace process, and we will not forego our right to state these. But, as an honest broker with experience

— successful experience — in Middle East negotiations, we also know that our critical contribution will often be to exert quiet, behind the scenes influence and persuasion.

Let me make one mistake our role as an honest broker to mean that we will change longstanding U.S. policy positions; and let me not mistake our policy positions as undercutting our determination to help the parties reach fair and mutually acceptable solutions to problems. As President Bush and I have both said this week, it is not our policies that matter; it is those of the parties. They are the ones that must negotiate peace.

This week, the parties provided insight into their thinking about a negotiated settlement. They outlined three broad requirements in the search for peace:

— First, we heard a yearning for peace — the wish of peoples in the region to live in a mutually satisfying relationship with neighbours, a relationship characterised by peace treaties, economic relations, cultural ties, and political dialogue.

— Second, we heard an emphasis on land — the desire of peoples in the region to exercise authority and political governance over territory they consider part of their national, political, historical or religious patrimony.

— Third, we heard a need for security — the requirement of people to live free of fear, and the obligation of governments to do their best to protect their citizens.

What the parties in fact said this week is that these core issues — land, peace, and security — are inseparable elements in the search for a comprehensive settlement.

The parties have made clear that peace by itself is unachievable without a territorial solution and security; that a territorial solution by itself will not resolve the conflict without there also being peace and security; and that security by itself is impossible to achieve without a territorial solution and peace. The process on which we are embarked can work only if all issues are put on that table, and if all issues are satisfactorily resolved.

The Negotiating Process

One key issue is the style of negotiations. Today, the Soviet Union and the United States are on the same side of the table — literally and figuratively — in striving for global peace and the resolution of regional conflicts. Today, and in the future, we will work together in pursuit of a Middle East settlement.

The United States, at the highest levels, will remain intimately engaged in this process. We expect to be available to the parties throughout this process. The United States and the Soviet Union are prepared to participate directly in the negotiations themselves, with the consent of all parties.

We will do our part. But we cannot do your part as well. The United States and the Soviet Union will provide encouragement, advice, recommendations, proposals, and views to help the peace process. Sometimes, you will be satisfied with our views, sometimes frustrated. Sometimes, we will support your positions and sometimes not. Sometimes we will act quietly and behind the

scenes, and sometimes we will make known our views and positions in public. None of this, however, will relieve you — the parties — of the obligation of making peace. If you won't do it, we certainly can't. As I have said from the beginning of this effort, we cannot want peace more than you, the parties most directly affected by its absence.

Parties in this process cannot reasonably be expected to operate outside their political environment; but they should be expected to educate, shape, guide, and lead politics and opinion. Leaders in the region have taken difficult and courageous decisions to get to this conference and to negotiations. More difficult and more courageous decisions will be required to settle this conflict.

Venue of Bilateral

Let me say a word about the venue of the bilateral negotiations. As you know, the invitation sent to the parties on October 18 contained the terms of reference for this peace process, terms of reference that had been meticulously negotiated and agreed. This invitation specified that direct, bilateral negotiations would begin four days after the opening of the conference. But there was never agreement regarding the location for those bilateral negotiations.

The parties have not yet been able to agree on where to hold these negotiations. It is the view of the co-sponsors that the direct, bilateral negotiations should start in Madrid as soon as possible. It is the intention of the co-sponsors to continue to consult with the parties with a view to fulfilling the requirements of the invitation on this subject.

From the perspective of the co-sponsors, and indeed from the perspective of most of the rest of the world, it would be very difficult to understand how a party could now refuse to attend bilateral negotiations simply because of a disagreement over the site of those negotiations.

Finally, I want to note that a meeting will take place in several weeks among those parties who wish to participate in multilateral negotiations to organise those negotiations. These talks will focus on issues of critical interest to many parties in the region. They will be a complement to the bilateral negotiations. I am pleased that the multilateral negotiations have already gained widespread support and interest both in and outside the Middle East.

Building Confidence and Trust

This week, many have focused on the need for steps that would build confidence and trust. The United States continues to believe that confidence building measures are important for the process and for the parties themselves.

I want to be perfectly honest, standing here as I am before colleagues with whom I have spent many, many hours since last March. The unwillingness of the parties to take confidence building steps has been disappointing. You have dealt successfully with formulas and positions. You have agreed on terms of reference that are fair and equitable. You have launched a process of negotiations that can succeed. But you have failed to deal adequately with the human dimension of the conflict.

Shamir says he did not 'give up hope'

Remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at the Madrid conference Friday, Nov. 1, 1991. The text was made available to the Jordan Times by Jordan Media Group.

Distinguished Co-Chairmen, Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first apologise, as I have to leave this hall immediately after my statement, together with some of my colleagues in order to return to Israel before sunset, in time for the advent of our holy day of rest. I trust no one will see in this a sign of disrespect.

Let me also express again our thanks and appreciation to our Spanish hosts and to the co-sponsors for putting so much effort in making this conference possible.

For two days, we have sat in this hall, armed with a lot of patience, to listen to what our Arab neighbours have to say.

We have heard much criticism and many charges. We can respond to each and every charge, to every misrepresentation of history and fact — and there were quite a few — and we can refute every contention. We, too, can cite morality, justice and international legality in our favour.

But is this what we have come here for? Such futile exchanges and rebuttals have been taking place during the last forty-three years at the U.N. and in countless international gatherings. They have not brought us one inch closer to mutual understanding and peace. This is precisely why we have persistently called for direct, face to face talks. Nevertheless, we came here out of goodwill, hoping there might be a change, a turn for the better in tone and content, that would lead us to a new and more promising chapter. And we have not given up this hope.

Let me therefore make remarks, not for the sake of polemics, but to shed light on a few facts.

Syria's representative wants us and the world to believe that his country is a model of freedom and protection of human rights, including those of the Jews. Such a statement stretches incredulity to infinite proportions. The ancient Jewish community in Syria has been exposed to cruel oppression, torture and discrimination of the worst kind. Most of the Jews fled the country over the years and the few thousand left, are living in perpetual terror. Anyone

who tries to cross the border is incarcerated in prison, beaten and tortured, and his family exposed to punishment and constant fear. But not only are the Jews the victims of the Syrian regime. To this day, Syria is the home of a host of terrorist organisations that spread violence and death to all kinds of innocent targets, including civil aviation, and women and children of many nations. I could go on and recite a litany of facts that demonstrate the extent to which Syria merits the dubious honour of being one of the most oppressive, tyrannical regimes in the world. But this is not what we have come here for.

To the Lebanese people, our neighbours to the north, we send a message of sympathy and understanding. They are suffering under the yoke of Syrian occupation and oppression and are denied even the capacity to cry out in protest. We bear no ill-will to the courageous and suffering Lebanese, and we join them in the hope that they will soon regain their independence and freedom. We have no designs on Lebanese territory, and in the context of a peace treaty and the removal of the Syrian presence, we can restore stability and security on the borders between our two countries.

In many respects, we have a situation of de facto non-belligerency with the Kingdom of Jordan. We sincerely believe that a peace treaty with Jordan is achievable. In the context of such a treaty, we will determine together the secure and recognised boundaries, and lay the foundation for a relationship of mutual cooperation and neighbourly relations. Both countries stand to gain from a relationship of peace and we hope to achieve it through direct, bilateral negotiations.

I listened attentively to the statement of the Palestinian Arab spokesman in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian Arabs are our closest neighbours and in many respects, their lives are intertwined with ours. This is one more reason, for the importance we attach to an accommodation with this community.

The Palestinian Arab spokesman made a valiant effort at recounting the sufferings of his people. But let me say, that twisting history and perversion of fact will not earn them the

sympathy which they strive to acquire. Was it not Palestinians who slaughtered a major part of the Jewish community of Hebron, without any provocation? Was it not Palestinians who rejected every peace proposal since the beginning of the century and responded by violence? Was it not Palestinians who produced a leader who collaborated with the Nazis in the extermination of Jews during the Holocaust? Was it not the Palestinians who called their Arab brethren in 1948 to come and help them destroy the Jewish State? Was it not the Palestinian who rejoiced and danced on the roofs when Iraqi Scud missiles were falling on Tel Aviv? Have they forgotten that more Palestinians were killed by their own brethren in a few recent years, than in clashes with Israeli security forces? Even to this very day, under conditions which you describe as occupation, is it not a fact that any Jew who strays into an Arab village risks his life, but tens of thousands of Palestinian Arabs walk freely in every town and village in Israel and no one molests them?

We have presented the Palestinians a fair proposal, one that offers them a chance to improve their lot immensely. I appeal to them to accept our proposal and join us in negotiations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have come here to seek together the road that would lead us to peace and accommodation, rather than to engage in a match of charges and counter-charges. Peace is not just words or a signature on a piece of paper. Peace is a frame of mind and a set of actions that are the opposite of hostility, and create a climate of mutual trust, tolerance and respect.

With an open heart, we call on the Arab leaders to take the courageous step and respond to our outstretched hand in peace. Yesterday, I extended an invitation to come to Israel for the first round of peace negotiations and begin a sincere exchange that would lead to agreement. We hope you will accept our invitation. We will readily reciprocate. I am sure I speak for every man, woman and child in Israel, who join me in the hope that, after all, this gathering will be registered in history as a turning point, away from hostility and forward to coexistence and peace.

Thank you.

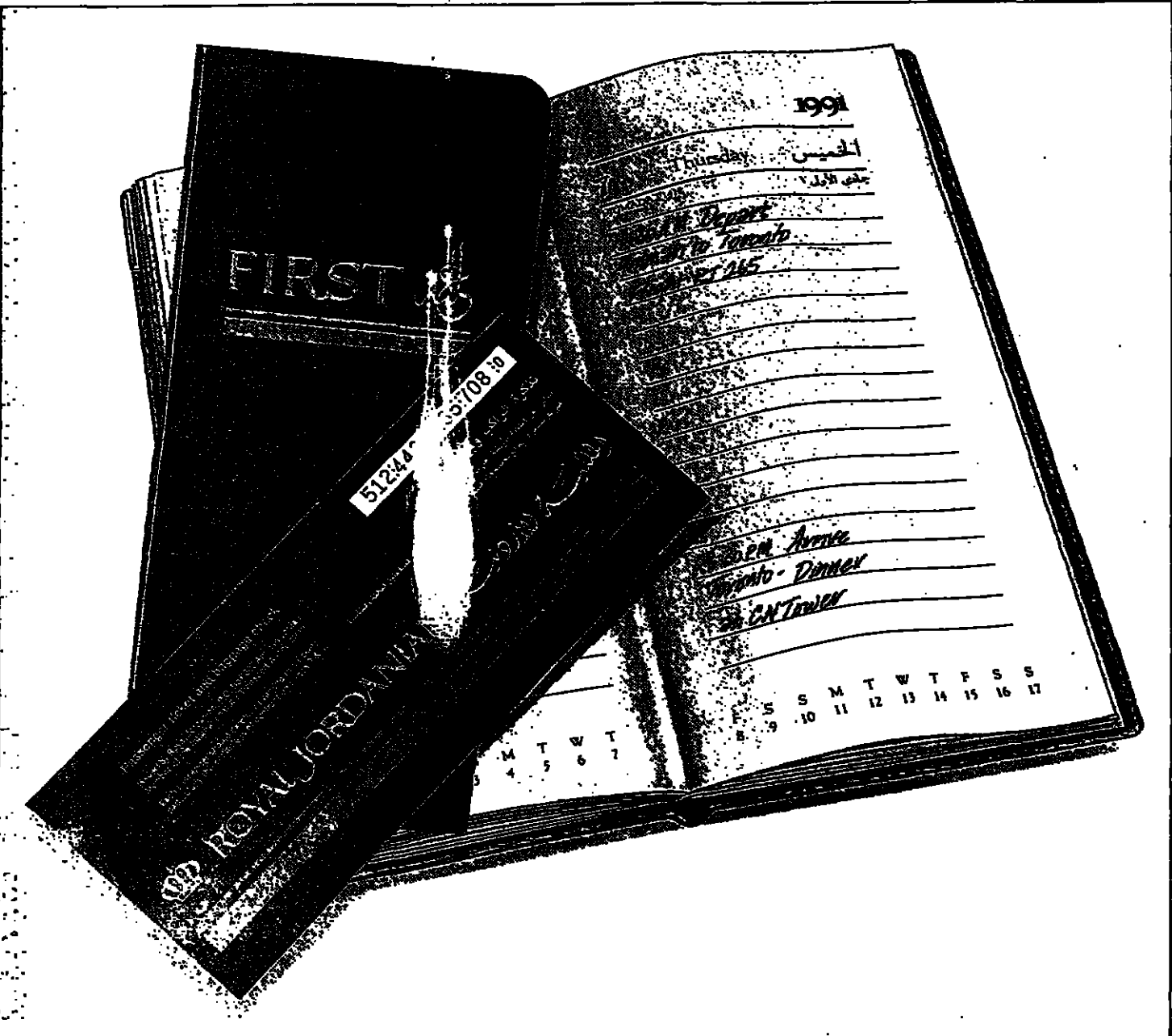
Senna takes pole at Australian Grand Prix

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — Newly-crowned triple world drivers' champion Ayrton Senna showed he had no intention of resting on his laurels Friday when he clinched provisional pole position for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

The 31-year-old Brazilian, driving a McLaren, scorched round the 3.78 km Adelaide street circuit in a new qualifying lap record time of one minute 14.21 seconds.

Senna's time put him narrowly ahead of his McLaren team-mate, Austrian Gerhard Berger, at the end of an accident-marred session run in hot sunshine.

Young German star Michael Schumacher was fifth fastest for world title hopes were extinguished in Japan two weeks ago when Senna secured his third title in four years, finished third fastest in his Williams ahead of his team-mate Italian Riccardo Patrese.



Hani Al Ali close to winning tennis title

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hani Al Ali came a step closer to being crowned Jordan's tennis champion Friday when he scored a crushing 6-0, 6-1 victory over Ihab Shehadeh to reach the finals of the third round of the Jordan Tennis Championship.

In the other semifinal Imad Abu Hamda overcame Laith Al Azzouni 6-3, 6-1 to play the final against Hani Al Ali Sunday.

The semifinals and the third and final round in general certainly looked like a repetition of the second round. Azzouni, Abu Hamda and Ali had reached the semifinals in the earlier rounds as well.

An observer of the matches in this championship cannot help but notice how easily the top four players reached the semifinals. Only a very small number of matches were extended to three sets and most players hardly had any trouble in overcoming their opponents.

Shehadeh, who was eliminated in the round of 16 in the second round last month, reached the semifinals this time by eliminating Iyad Abu Hamda 6-2, 6-0. Earlier he had defeated Ahmad Maher 6-0, 6-3 in the round of 16 and beat Khaled Al Hussein 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 in the preliminary round.

Leading contender Ali swiftly eliminated his opponents. He beat Rami Farraj 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals; Hanna Ka'war 6-0, 6-1 in the round of 16 and Yousef Betrawi 6-0, 6-1 in the preliminaries.

Second round finalist Imad Abu Hamda easily reached the semifinals as he eliminated Naser Kamal 6-1, 6-2 in the quarterfinals; Firas al Daqqaq 6-0, 6-0 in the round of 16 and Mohammad Ennab 6-1, 6-0 in the preliminary round.

Azzouni, the promising semifinalist, defeated Khaled Al Nazer 6-3, 6-3 in the quarterfinals; Hussein Obeid 6-1, 6-1 in the round of 16 and Mohammad Hassounch 6-1, 6-0 in the preliminaries.

Kasparov, Karpov win games at Tilburg tournament

TILBURG, Netherlands (AP) — World chess champion Gary Kasparov beat fellow Soviet Evgeny Bareev, rising to a two point lead with three rounds left.

Kasparov was thronged by reporters and visiting grandmasters after beating Bareev in the 11th round of the 15th annual Interpolis Chess Tournament.

Bareev, playing black, blundered and was forced to resign in a hopeless position at his 33rd move.

Also Thursday, Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union beat Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland.

Korchnoi long held the upper hand in an English game and missed several fine opportunities coming under time pressure. He then fumbled and lost by exceeding the time limit in his 39th move, one before the control.

Edberg, Becker and Courier bow out of Paris Open

PARIS (R) — The world's richest indoor tennis tournament, the \$2 million Paris Open, lost its top three seeds Thursday when Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker and Jim Courier all bowed out.

Top seed and defending champion Edberg was toppled in three sets by Michael Chang, the American teenager who beat him in the 1989 French Open final at Roland Garros on the other side of Paris.

This year's French Open champion Courier, the third seed, had his hopes dashed by unseeded Italian Omar Camporese, who beat him 7-6 6-3, and second seed Becker quit without hitting a ball, a victim of flu.

The triple loss was a devastating blow to the organizers who had persuaded the world's top five ranked players to enter but finds none of them in the quarterfinals.

Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany withdrew without playing Tuesday because of tennis elbow and Ivan Lendl pulled out late last week with injury.

Frenchman Guy Forget, the world number six who struggled past American Derrick Rostagno, is now the top ranked player left in the draw.

After cruising to take the first set 6-2, world number one Edberg seemed to have the match in the pocket but the Swede's game went to pieces after that against the relentless Chang.

He could hardly do anything right in the second which he lost 6-1 and was hanging on desperately in the third until Chang broke him to lead 3-2.

From that point there was little doubt about the outcome and Chang served out the match as he took the decider 6-4.

The result was a big shock because Edberg had won his last nine matches against the American, five of them this year.

Becker, twice a winner in Paris and last year's losing finalist when he was forced to retire with injury, woke up with fever and could not play his scheduled match with unseeded Swede Jonas Svensson.

The German's withdrawal guaranteed that Courier would move past him to number two in the world rankings but the American had no time to celebrate as he slumped to defeat against Camporese.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1991
By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: One of the best days and evenings this month, when you won't have to worry about accident or arguments. Others will go out of their way to want to be with you and catch up on the past.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Now you find that you have prophetic insight and understanding the into the various ways in which you can gain knowledge and understanding by your own efforts.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Wind up whatever partnership matters have been awaiting your closing them and you are also able to get rid of some opposition being directed in your path.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now are able to see more clearly what you can do to serve and show others that you truly value them and appreciate their support of you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you now have in mind is ok so long as you do not interfere with plans already made by close companions but otherwise time for recreation.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't make that critical comment that arises on your lips at home this morning or you could alienate others but later they see ideas of things.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A day to make sure you do early attend to the studies that bring you peace and serenity after which you can get off to enjoy congenial friends.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Let those who are close to you realize you have to use a little more care at

present where finances are concerned but its necessary you expand your consciousness of abundance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are disappointed and difficult early unless you use self-control but later you find you have a happier feeling and things work out as you wish.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You feel you can't get moving as you would like early but if you will study and meditate you can eliminate this and be more optimistic.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Although you may feel somewhat depressed early in the morning, as the day advances you become more and more eager for social pleasures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you can have some criticism early that does not please you at all but if you ignore it, this quickly passes and you are again on top of the world.

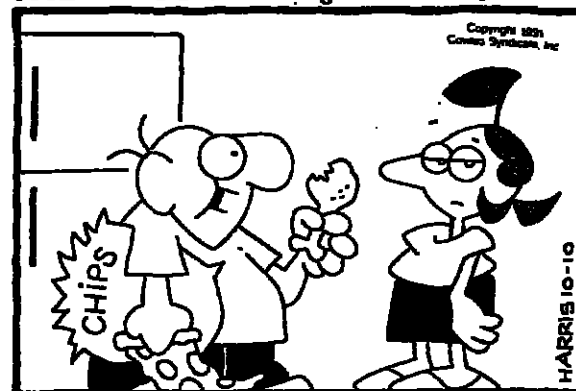
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the time for you to make certain that you know exactly what you want and that it has to do with extending your lofty convictions.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he works best in any sort of environment that requires a detailed understanding of all the elements that have to do with research and laboratory activity. Proficiency is the key-word here and this child will settle for being so late.

The stars impel, they do not compel. What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



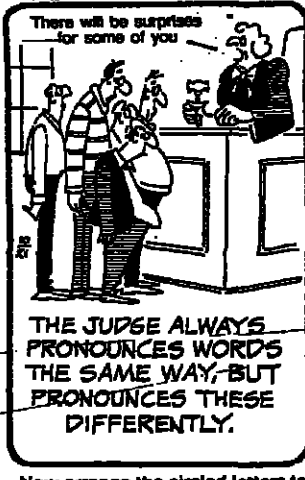
"I worked up quite an appetite listening to my weight loss cassettes!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOYNE
MESAU
SCOTUC
DENEEL

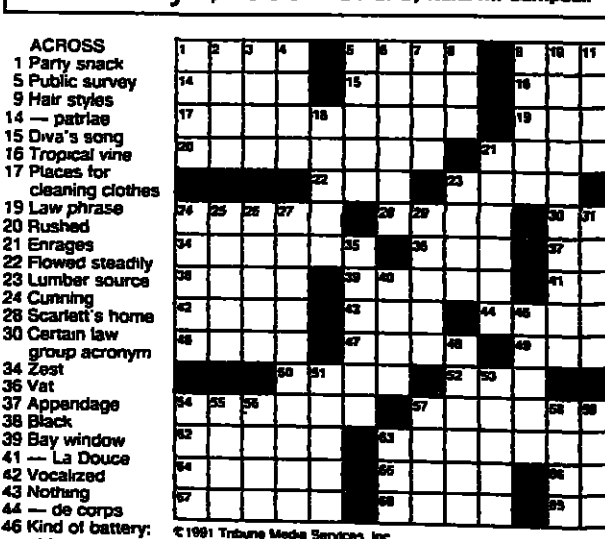


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Saturday's Jumbles: UNITY BEFIT LETHAL CASHIEW
Answer: How the guard at the clock factory did his work — "WATCH-FULLY!"

THE Daily Crossword by Rena M. Campbell



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Party snack
2 Public survey
3 Hair styles
4 — patrias
5 Dvd's song
6 Tropical vine
7 Places for cleaning clothes
8 Low phrase
9 Rushed
10 Enrages
11 Flowed steadily
12 Lumber source
13 Curving
14 Scarlett's home
15 Certain law group acronym
16 Zest
17 Vat
18 Appendage
19 Remains
20 Before: pref.
21 As blind
22 Bahama city
23 Juice and Spade
24 Put game
25 Suitable for cutting
26 Tied and
27 Sailed plant
28 Gave opposing evidence
29 On the way
30 Sometime table item
31 Tote
32 Do likewise
33 Poet Sylvia
34 Upright
35 Unfriendly
36 Adjusted
37 Targherated
38 — Palmes
39 Model of dress
40 At one's — (readily available)
41 Unusual
42 Lulu
43 Juice and Spade
44 Put game
45 Suitable for cutting
46 Tied and
47 Sailed plant
48 Gave opposing evidence
49 On the way
50 Sometime table item
51 Tote
52 Do likewise
53 Poet Sylvia
54 Upright
55 Unfriendly
56 Adjusted
57 Targherated
58 — Palmes
59 Soccer goal
60 Toward the north
61 Campfire
62 Arab headress
63 Mine car
64 Edict
65

TORONTO. SAME DAY

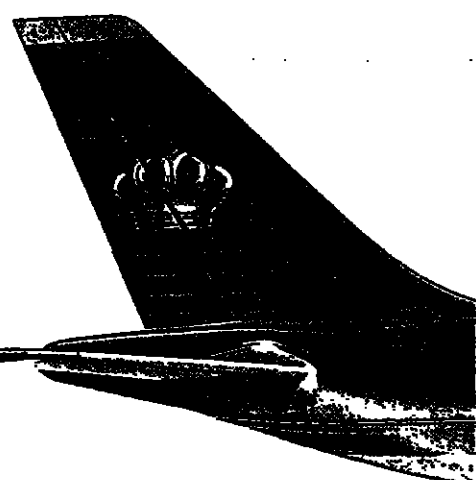
Now, Royal Jordanian flies direct from Amman to Toronto.

On November 7th, Royal Jordanian adds another Maple leaf to its existing Canadian operation — Montreal.

Fly every Thursday on our luxurious TriStar from Amman to Toronto, arriving the same evening to pursue your planned activities.

Royal Jordanian, one of the most dynamic airlines is always adding new destinations to its network for your comfort and convenience.

ROYAL JORDANIAN



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tel Aviv Close
Sterling Pound	1.7435	1.7398
Deutsche Mark	1.6710	1.6732
Swiss Franc	1.4645	1.4677
French Franc	5.7070	5.7198
Japanese Yen	131.00	131.00
European Currency Unit	1.2250	1.2235

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.00	5.12	5.12	5.31
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.25	10.12	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.31	9.37	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.87	8.18	8.18	8.12
French Franc	8.93	9.12	9.18	9.25
Japanese Yen	6.31	6.21	5.93	5.81
European Currency Unit	9.43	9.68	9.75	9.87

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	358.60	6.95	Silver	4.10	.090

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6860	0.6880
Sterling Pound	1.1941	1.2001
Deutsche Mark	0.4100	0.4120
Swiss Franc	0.4683	0.4706
French Franc	0.1200	0.1206
Japanese Yen	0.5236	0.5262
Dutch Guilder	0.3639	0.3657
Swedish Krona	0.1125	0.1131
Italian Lira	0.0548	0.0551
Belgian Franc	0.01977	0.01987

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7890	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	0.07768	0.07820
Saudi Riyal	0.1825	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1862	0.1870
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7560	1.7650
UAE Dirham	0.1862	0.1870
Greek Drachma	0.3658	0.3689
Cypriot Pound	1.4670	1.4780

CAS Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	29/10/1991	Close	30/10/1991	Close
All-Share	124.51		124.66	
Banking Sector	105.14		105.45	
Insurance Sector	142.57		125.08	
Industry Sector	159.18		154.00	
Services Sector	132.11		132.52	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Saturday.

One Sterling	1.7390/7400	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1222/27	Canadian dollars
	1.6707/17	Deutsche marks
	1.8815/25	Dutch guilders
	1.4682/89	Swiss francs
	34.39/43	Belgian francs
	5.7050/7100	French francs
	1250/1251	Italian lire
	130.50/60	Japanese yen
	6.0886/0930	Swedish crowns
	6.5430/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.4850/4900	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	357.30/357.80	U.S. dollars

Argentine president issues sweeping deregulation decree

BUENOS AIRES (R) — President Carlos Menem Thursday issued a sweeping decree scrapping decades-old regulations over trade and investments in Argentina, including abolishing all restrictions, quotas and limits on imports and exports.

Flanked by his cabinet, the Peronist leader hailed his steps in a televised speech as "historic decisions, concrete and truly revolutionary measures to transform our social and economic system."

Under the 122-article decree, all restrictions, quotas and limits on imports and exports were abolished, regulations on labour contracts and business hours were scrapped and the fixing of fees by professional guilds was prohibited.

"We want to encourage work, exports and imports... Argentina will be able to buy cheap and better quality products and industrialists will be able to buy cheaper raw materials," Mr. Menem said.

Jettisoning the nationalist tenets of his Peronist Party, Mr. Menem started deregulating Argentina's economy shortly after taking office in 1989. Earlier this year he deregulated the oil industry and lowered import taxes to an average 11 per cent.

He is also selling off money-losing state-run utilities, following the turning over of Argentina's telephone system and its national airline to foreign operators in 1990.

The deregulation decree also ordered the closing of agencies set up during the depression of the 1930s to regulate production and distribution of grains, beef, wine, sugar and "mate" tea, Argentina's traditional herbal infusion.

Mr. Menem also ordered the closing of concentration markets for cattle, vegetables and fruits and fish as well as of a board that oversaw Argentina's horse-manship activities.

Under the decree anyone will be able to import and export goods as long as they are not illegal or dangerous and have passed sanitary and environmental controls.

The decision on imports was especially pointed at cars, food and drugs.

Argentine car production cannot meet a demand that has surged this year, causing delivery delays and pushing prices of used cars up beyond the level of new cars.

Food and drug prices have often dashed efforts to hold down living costs.

Inflation has dropped to just over one per cent a month after a 27 per cent jump in February alone, but food and health costs have felled Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo in his quest to push the rate below one per cent.



Carlos Menem

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Australian company plans to recycle tonnes of discarded tyres

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia's biggest rubber maker is about to do something useful with the 16 million car tyres the country throws away each year. Pacific Dunlop has announced plans for a plant to recycle tyres into a range of new products. The company estimates that about 120,000 tonnes of tyre rubber is discarded every year, most going into landfill sites. The 20 million dollar (\$16 million) plant is due to open in late 1992. The company claims it will be the first in the world to recover, shred and recycle tyre rubber for uses including sport and playground surfaces, roads, carpet underlay, paving tiles and industrial matting.

"There will be about 20 different products that will be manufactured from recycled tyres," said Andrew Stobart, general manager of the Foam and Fibre Group. "Of these some products will contain between 50 to 90 per cent of recycled tyre, while others will have 100 per cent recycled content."

ADB approves \$100 m loan to Chinese bank

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100 million loan to a Chinese bank to finance commercially run state enterprises, collectives and joint ventures.

The variable interest-rate loan to the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) is repayable in 15 years, with a three-year grace period, the Manila-based bank said in a statement.

A \$800,000 technical assistance grant comes with the loan, the ADB added.

The loan will be used for projects in coastal and less developed inland provinces in China, the bank said. The grant is to be used for consulting services and domestic and overseas training to strengthen the Chinese bank.

ICBC, the largest commercial bank in China, was established in 1984 and lends mostly to urban state and collective enterprises.

The ADB suspended loans to China after the violent suppression of student pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen square in 1989, but resumed them late last year.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Index-linked selling and profit-taking cropped prices in a quiet session before a long weekend. The Nikkei average closed 178.04 points weaker at 25,044.24.

SYDNEY — Foreign and domestic buying orders pushed the All Ordinaries index up 1.3 points to 1,684.3.

HONG KONG — Traders took profits from property shares. The Hang Seng index fell 0.92 points to close at 4,037.82.

FRANKFURT — The DAX index fell 8.51 points to 1,573.55 after a bank lowered estimates for Volkswagen's 1991-92 results.

ZURICH — Activity was muted due to the All Saints holiday in some Swiss cantons and in parts of Europe. The SPI index eased 5.3 points to 1,073.5.

LONDON — Weakness in Wall Street and pessimism over the economy pushed the FTSE index down 16.5 to 2,549.5.

NEW YORK — U.S. unemployment rose in October. Leading indicators showed their first drop in eight months. At 1647 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were down 14.54 to 3,054.56.

Study sees growing U.S. dependence on oil imports

WASHINGTON (AP) — With domestic production continuing to decline and demand increasing, the United States probably will import three of every four barrels of oil it uses within two decades, a congressional agency has said.

The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) said that although increased dependence on imports does not itself translate into a serious national threat, the country's ability to replace foreign oil — in event of a long-term disruption of imports — is more precarious now than it was seven years ago.

While imports supplied 42 per cent of U.S. oil needs in 1990 — or 7.1 million barrels out of a total daily consumption of 16.9 million barrels — they are expected to account for 75 per cent by the year 2010 if current consumption and domestic production patterns continue, the report estimated.

The OTA, which provides technical and scientific analysis for Congress, said several steps could be taken to lessen dependence on foreign oil, including:

- Pushing for more efficient use of oil by all users.
- Shifting more residential, commercial and industrial energy users to other fuels such as coal, natural gas or renewable fuels.
- Increasing the fuel efficiency of automobiles.
- Accelerating the transition to alternative transportation fuels such as natural gas.

Because transportation accounts for 63 per cent of total U.S. oil use, it "offers the largest potential opportunities for oil savings," the OTA said, adding that among cars and small trucks "there is substantial potential for further fuel economy increases through purely technological means."

"But even with heroic efforts to exploit these opportunities, the United States faces a future of high dependence on imports," the OTA added.

America's reliance on oil imports, especially from the volatile Middle East, prompted renewed efforts early this year in Congress and within the Bush administration to develop a new long-term energy strategy.

But legislation expected to come before the Senate soon has been sharply criticised for failing to include broad and significant conservation measures and, instead, relying heavily on new domestic production.

A key area of contention is a provision of the bill that calls for opening the Arctic national wildlife refuge in northern Alaska to oil and gas drilling. Some senators have vowed to block the bill from reaching the Senate floor because of the provision.

Many of these senators and most environmental groups argue that new requirements on automobile fuel efficiency would save much more oil than the fields in the refuge could provide.

But the Bush administration has steadfastly opposed legislation to sharply increase fuel efficiency requirements, arguing it would be an economic blow to an already-struggling domestic auto industry and force motorists to buy smaller cars.

However, neither greater auto fuel efficiency nor opening the refuge to oil production would likely reduce U.S. dependence on imports for years. The OTA said the refuge would not begin producing large amounts of oil for a dozen years. Steeper fuel efficiency requirements for new cars are also not likely to be felt significantly until after the turn of the decade.

Energy Department officials have predicted that net oil imports will reach about 70 per cent of consumption by the year 2010, barring a dramatic change in consumption habits or domestic production.

Imports currently account for about 40 per cent of the oil used in the United States.

Calvin Kent, head of the department's energy information administration, said that if domestic production and energy conservation is not changed, the United States likely will import about 3.3 billion barrels of oil in the year 2010. That's or 1.2 billion barrels more than today.

"In the next two decades we are going to be highly dependent on oil to fuel our (economic) growth" and an increasing percentage of that oil will come from outside the United States, said Mr. Kent, whose agency gathers statistics and makes long-term market evaluations for the Energy Department.

Mr. Kent did not recommend specific actions that should be taken by either the government or individual citizens. He noted that energy legislation in the Senate would, according to administration estimates, curtail imports by 3.5 million barrels a day.

Those estimates have been challenged by critics of the bill, who say it relies too heavily on expanding domestic production and not enough on promoting conservation.

On other matters, Mr. Kent said he did not expect that a limited resumption of Iraqi oil exports would significantly affect oil prices. A growth in demand likely will absorb any Iraqi oil without pushing down prices, he said.

Iraq has not been able to export oil since its invasion of Kuwait.

Jim Ragland, a senior analyst for Saudi Aramco Services Corp., said Kuwait is not expected to return to pre-invasion oil export levels for at least four years. He said he expected other producers, including Saudi Arabia, to continue making up for the lack of Kuwaiti oil.

Philippines hints of toughness against foreign creditor banks

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino's chief aide has warned foreign banks his government may be forced into a tougher policy on repaying its debts if creditors do not relax payment terms.

The Philippines owes about \$28 billion to foreign creditors and is seeking \$2.3 billion in fresh loans from commercial banks. Foreign donors are to hold their third annual meeting in February to pledge development aid under the multinational Philippine assistance programme.

"We have been good debtors, but our creditors have not reciprocated with any sign of liberality, not even in the face of the real suffering of our people," presidential executive secretary Franklin Drilon told European businessmen.

"We are not on our knees in terms of economic difficulties," Mr. Drilon added. "But the commercial banks continue to exact their pound of flesh. Let me warn them — there is a limit to our peoples' patience."

Asked whether the government was threatening to repudiate its debts, Mr. Drilon said: "Nothing of that sort. Treat us better in negotiations, give us a little consideration for all that we have done."

The special U.S. representative to the Philippine assistance programme said billions of dollars have been pumped into the Philippines since Aquino took office in 1986 but have had little impact.

The representative, Elliott Richardson, said foreign donors were wondering "what exactly is being accomplished with the money" in terms of infrastructure and development.

Maurice Greenberg, chairman of the U.S.-Philippine business community, told the same gathering that the Philippines had to change its "perception of political instability" if it expected to overcome its economic problems.

Mrs. Aquino has steadfastly resisted pressure from congress and the media for selective repudiation of foreign debt for fear it would destroy the government's credit rating.

Pressure for changes in the debt policy have been increasing in advance of next May's national election.

In his speech, Mr. Drilon said economic stabilisation remains a high priority of government, "but again let me make it clear to our creditors you cannot turn a blind eye to the political realities in my country."

"The economic stabilisation programme can only succeed and, therefore, make it possible for us to continue to honour our debts under a stable political system not wracked by demonstrations in the streets because of harsh economic measures that our people can no longer bear," he said.

Economic growth in the Philippines is expected to slow to only about 1.5 per cent this year, in large part because of the devastation caused by June's eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano.

In addition, the government stands to lose \$205 million a year pledged by the United States in return for using Subic Bay naval base. The Philippine senate has refused a new, 10-year lease for the base, and Mr. Drilon said the Americans will have to be gone by 1994.

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3. 3M and verbatim diskettes box JD 5.
4. Various game diskettes JD 0.750 each.
5. CD player (TECHNICS) Price: JD 350
6. Various CD's — each for JD 5.

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Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Peace boats leave Dubrovnik, West accused of ignoring Croatia

DUBROVNIK, Yugoslavia (R) — Croatian peace boats left the besieged medieval port of Dubrovnik Friday after Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic accused the West of abandoning rebel Croatia in its fight for freedom.

Mr. Milosevic, a Croat, led the flotilla of 29 boats which landed at the Adriatic port Thursday to draw attention to the plight of 50,000 people trapped in the city.

He called on the men, women and children of Dubrovnik to resist a four-week blockade by the Serbian-led army and navy, trying to force Croatian militiamen inside to surrender.

He appealed for Western help and accused Europe and the United States of turning a cold shoulder to the largely Roman Catholic republic of 4.5 million people, which declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25.

"Europe and America owe us a debt because they wanted democracy here but now do nothing to protect it," Mr. Milosevic said in a fiery speech to some 4,000 people Thursday.

Fighting in Croatia continued Friday despite a call by the republic's government for a ceasefire to mark All Saints' Day, known locally as the Day of the Dead.

Croatian Radio said the town of Osijek, about 50 kilometres south of the Hungarian border, was attacked by army MiG fighters and pounded by heavy artillery.

The Danube River town of Vukovar, where 15,000 Croats have resisted a two-month army siege, was also under attack, the radio said.

In Belgrade, a convoy of 43 coaches carrying about 2,000 people, mostly women, set out in an attempt to see relatives taken prisoner in Croatia or trapped in federal army barracks.

Croatian forces have surrounded army barracks throughout the republic, trapping soldiers, now mostly Serbs, inside.

Twelve people were reported killed in fighting Thursday.

Croatian officials say the fighting since June has killed 2,500 Croats and an unknown number of Serbs and soldiers.

Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic with a Christian Orthodox population of 8.5 million, wants to hold together as much of the federation as possible.

It has been adamant that Serbs living outside its borders, especially the 600,000 Serbs in Croatia, should have the right to stay in a Yugoslav state even if some republics break away.

The European Community, fearing the fighting could engulf the country of 23.5 million people in civil war, has threatened Serbia with economic sanctions unless it accepts an EC plan for a looser association of the country's six republics.

A fourth draft of the plan will be discussed at the Hague next Tuesday between the EC and the leaders of the republics.

Serbia is the only republic which has formally rejected the proposal, saying it would assure the break-up of Yugoslavia and leave large Serbian minorities in other republics.

various republics, but comes specifically from the prospect of hunger, starvation, this winter in parts of the Soviet Union," Mr. Nazarbayev said.

In circumstances of hunger, he warned, "the people might follow simply any dictatorship."

The West should provide food credits and consider postponing or rolling over the Soviet Union's short-term and long-term debts for the coming year which are now due, Mr. Nazarbayev said.

Food credits should be provided quickly because food needs to be purchased outside the country and shipped to the Soviet Union which is very the consuming, he said.

"I'm not speaking generally here of Kazakhstan, I'm speaking of other parts of the Soviet Union where we can expect a substantial shortage which will definitely have an impact on the political situation," he said.

He sidestepped a question, however, which asked him to name the areas facing the prospect of hunger. "There are already regions in the country where there is an established ration of bread products per day," he replied.

During his visit, Mr. Nazarbayev has been trying to drum up foreign investment in his sparsely populated Central Asian republic which is rich in oil, gas and precious metals.

He said he talked to British and

Zambia on slow countdown to change

LUSAKA (R) — Zambia was on a slow countdown to change Friday as results from its first multi-party elections in 23 years started to trickle in.

President Kenneth Kaunda, 67, one of Africa's elder statesmen, and his United National Independence Party (UNIP) face a possible defeat after 27 years of uninterrupted rule since independence from Britain.

Political analysts have tipped Mr. Kaunda's presidential opponent, Frederick Chiluba, a 48-year-old trade union leader, and

the main opposition Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) to win Thursday's elections.

Initial results gave one parliamentary seat each to UNIP and the MMD and put Mr. Kaunda ahead in the presidential race.

Humphrey Mulemba, a former UNIP secretary-general and diplomat who defected to the MMD last year, won a seat from northwest province. UNIP took a seat in the Lusaka area.

Both parties fielded full slates for the 150 parliamentary seats. Mr. Kaunda was making a



Aung San San Kyi

South, North Korea to meet on reconciliation pact

SEOUL (R) — South and North Korea may meet next week to discuss a reconciliation accord, although Pyongyang's anger at U.S.-South Korean war games this week has cast a shadow over the talks, officials said Friday.

Working-level talks to draft the accord are expected to begin on Nov. 7 at Panmunjom, a spokesman quoted South Korean Prime Minister Chung Mong-Shik as telling newspaper editors.

In the last few days, Pyongyang has savagely criticised Seoul for the joint U.S.-South Korean military manoeuvres, codenamed "Foal-Eagle," that began Friday and which it said were a rehearsal for an attack on the North.

"What matters is that no sooner had the South Korean authorities gone back after the inter-Korean high-level talks than they started the large-scale war exercise against the North," Pyongyang's official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a report monitored in Tokyo.

KCNA said Foal-Eagle was "an anti-dialogue, anti-reconciliation criminal act and an open challenge to us."

A U.S. military spokesman called it a training exercise for rear and special operations forces.

"We cannot but doubt how

Opposition looks to U.S. to end Mobutu's reign

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire's opposition appealed for Western troops to prevent a crackdown by President Mobutu Sese Seko's forces, and diplomats said Washington was pondering whether to press him to step down from power.

Two rival governments, neither functioning, claimed legitimacy Friday, symbolising the state of anarchy in the country more than five weeks after army-led looting erupted.

The powerful sacred union coalition of opposition parties voted unanimously Thursday night to ask Belgium and France to keep and even reinforce their troops in Zaire, to prevent Mr. Mobutu unleashing repression against "the defenceless people."

Diplomatic sources in the shattered capital Kinshasa said the United States, France and Belgium were close to telling Mr. Mobutu to quit power before it is too late.

The ultimatum would be comparable to the one handed to President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, which ended his dictatorship in the Philippines.

France and Belgium, Zaire's former colonial power, have already decided that Mr. Mobutu's 26-year rule cannot continue, diplomats and Zairean political sources said. Hostile public statements by the two countries' governments leave no doubt about that.

But diplomats said Washington had not yet abandoned hope that Mr. Mobutu can "cohabit" with Etienne Tshisekedi, the opposition champion Mr. Mobutu was forced to accept as prime minister for five days before firing him on Oct. 21.

The Bush administration, grabbing a few minutes during the Madrid summit on the Middle East to think about Zaire, may now be ready to ditch its erstwhile African ally.

A tough new U.S. policy was clear in a statement issued by the American embassy in Kinshasa which condemned the bombing of an opposition newspaper last weekend by "elements who have access to explosives and munitions."

This was seen by the Zairean opposition as a warning to pro-Mobutu army units not to turn to all-out terror tactics.

Five members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President George Bush this week asking him to call publicly for Mr. Mobutu's departure.

"Sometimes, as in the case of Marcos and the Philippines, a signal from the United States was needed to convince the tottering dictator that his time was up," they wrote.

China accuses critics of playing 'power politics'

PEKING (AP) — China Friday defended its increasingly controversial human rights record and accused other governments of using the issue to play "power politics."

A document released by the Chinese cabinet said there is no religious or political repression in China — a statement contradicted by recent reports from human rights groups and an Australian delegation that visited in July.

Officials have worked for months to craft the statement as part of China's attempt to defuse international criticism of its prison conditions, bloody 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators and jailing of dissidents.

"As a developing country, China has suffered from setbacks while safeguarding and developing human rights," the document said. "Although much has been achieved in this regard, there is still much room for improvement."

The document restates the government's position that its primary human rights concern is providing food, clothing and shelter for its 1.1 billion people. That previously has failed to satisfy Western critics.

Xinhua said the document stresses that using the human rights issue for the political purpose of imposing the ideology of one country on another is no longer a question of human rights, but a manifestation of power politics in the form of

China accuses critics of playing 'power politics'

interference in the internal affairs of other countries."

The document said international intervention is warranted only in cases of "gross human rights violations caused by colonialism, racism, foreign aggression and occupation, as well as apartheid, racial discrimination, genocide, slave trade and serious violations of human rights by international terrorist organisations."

It says all prisoners receive an adequate diet and necessary medical care. Families and friends of prisoners, however, have described appalling treatment and conditions in Chinese jails.

The paper also went on the offensive against colonial powers for the suffering they caused the Chinese in the past.

"Under the imperialists' colonial rule, the Chinese people had their fill of humiliation," it said. It mentioned aggression by British, French, Japanese, U.S. and Russian forces from 1840 to 1949, when the Communists took power.

China began working last year to improve its image after the June 1989 military crackdown on pro-democracy activists made it an international outcast.

Since last December, Chinese officials have allowed discussions of human rights during meetings with visiting officials. The Australian group that visited in July was the first human rights delegation invited to visit. Similar groups have followed.

Some Soviets will face hunger by Jan. 1 unless West acts—Nazarbayev

LONDON (AP) — The greatest threat to democracy in the Soviet Union is the prospect of hunger which will strike some areas by Jan. 1 unless the West provides food aid quickly, the president of the second-largest Soviet republic warned Thursday.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, nearing the end of a five-day visit to Britain, said he was concerned that the West isn't taking the prospect of hunger and starvation in the Soviet Union seriously.

"I have very much the impression that there is a view around in the West that one way or the other the Soviet Union will get by, there won't be any hunger over there," he told a news conference.

"I can tell you on the contrary that even before the New Year, by Jan. 1, there will be hunger in parts of the Soviet Union unless food assistance, particularly grain assistance, is made available in the very near future without delay," he said.

The Soviet grain harvest this year will be no more than 170 million tons, down from 225 million tons last year, he said. This is a result of very dry weather and other conditions, not of wastage or grain left rotting in the fields, he said.

"The main threat to democracy... to the processes underway in the Soviet Union... comes so much from separatist leanings of

American bankers about how to finance projects using Kazakhstan's vast resources. He also visited British Petroleum and British Gas, which are both competing for a tender to exploit Karachaganak, the largest undeveloped gas condensate field in the world.

During talks with Prime Minister John Major and other cabinet ministers, Mr. Nazarbayev said, Britain promised Kazakhstan technical assistance and training for its personnel as it moves to a market economy.

Asked about relations with Japan, he said, "we've got the very worst of relations — but not our fault — with Japanese companies in Kazakhstan at the moment." He said the Japanese were reluctant to do business in Kazakhstan and made a pitch for investment.

He said he plans to visit Saudi Arabia, which has offered to help in Kazakhstan's transition to a market economy, and Iran, where he will discuss a proposed gas and oil pipeline across to the Caspian Sea and then to the Gulf.

Kazakhstan already has a rail link with China and further development of the line could shorten the link between the Pacific and the West by some 4,000 kilometres, he said. In addition, he said, there is the possibility of a link through Iran to Turkey which would give Kazakhstan an outlet to the Mediterranean.

Top army rebel leader, 13 other officers surrender in Philippines

MANILA (R) — A leading Philippine army rebel and 13 other fugitive officers surrendered Friday, pledging not to take part in another coup attempt against President Corason Aquino's government.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadía told a Manila news conference of the surrender of Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Kapunan and said he was optimistic dismissed rebel Colonel Gregorio Honasan would also soon give up.

Military rebels under Col. Honasan were no longer able to launch a coup attempt against the government because the surrender of Col. Kapunan and the 13 officers "will minimise to a great degree the possibility of another coup," Gen. Abadía said.

He made the announcement ahead of Monday's scheduled return of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, accused by the government of helping finance the last major coup against Mrs. Aquino in 1989, when 113 people died.

Col. Honasan told journalists last week that army rebels would attempt to oust the government if demands for political reforms were ignored.

Col. Kapunan told Friday's news conference, at which all 14 rebels were present, that he would not take part in a fresh patch.

"We have never coveted power or wealth," Col. Kapunan, who was one of three founding members of the rebel Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) involved in some of the six coup attempts against the government since 1986, said in a prepared statement.

"We are confident that eventually we shall be vindicated," he said, adding that his decision to surrender was part of a "sincere desire to bring about a peaceful and honourable resolution of one of several conflicts besetting our country."

Gen. Abadía said military leaders would ask President Aquino to reinstate Col. Kapunan and all rebel officers dismissed for taking part in the coup attempts.

Col. Honasan would also be reinstated by the armed forces if he surrendered to military authorities, he said.

Col. Kapunan, given a safe conduct pass by Gen. Abadía so he could serve as a go-between in negotiations with Col. Honasan, had a breakfast meeting with Mrs. Aquino Thursday before formally surrendering the next day, an official said. No details of their talks were given.

The 14 officers will be placed under the custody of their military commanders while facing court martial proceedings for taking part in past coup attempts.

Only 15 rebel officers remain at large and Gen. Abadía said if they did not surrender soon they would be hunted down.

"If nothing happens within a reasonable period then we will... pursue those remaining in the underground. Dec. 25 is a little too long for me and the leadership of the armed forces," Gen. Abadía said.

Siamese twins separated

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Surgeons have successfully separated Siamese twins who had been joined at the abdomen, a hospital spokesman said. Kaci and Keri Archer were in stable condition at Minneapolis Children's Medical Centre, hospital spokesman Dan Ness said. They were born Oct. 15. At the request of the babies' parents, Kelly and Melissa Archer of Gettysburg, hospital officials declined to release further information. Siamese twins occur about once in every 100,000 births.

Kohl's son critical after Italian motorway crash

ROVIGO, Italy (R) — The son of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was in a critical condition Thursday after his car skidded off a motorway in northern Italy, doctors said. Peter Kohl, 26, was driving towards Bologna on the motorway from Padua earlier in the day when he apparently lost control of his car near Rovigo, police said. Police said he was alone in the car and that no other vehicles were involved. He was flown to hospital in Monza by helicopter. "His condition is critical. He has broken many ribs and he has a bruised lung. The prognosis is reserved," Paolo Maisano, a doctor at the hospital, said.

Killer's corpse horrifies murdered man's relatives

VANCOUVER (R) — A Canadian hospital has apologised to a murdered man's relatives who had filed past his open coffin only to discover his killer's corpse — resplendent in a suit they had bought for him. Vancouver General Hospital said it had been deeply concerned that it had released the wrong body to the funeral home where it was viewed by horrified relatives of Bovey Sheng Chang. The hospital said the mixup resulted "from the close similarity between the names involved." Police have not released the name of the killer. Chang, 38, his 33-year-old wife and their two small sons were shot to death in their home on Oct. 20 by the woman's former boyfriend, who then killed himself.

Japanese relieve stress through drink

TOKYO (R) — Overworked Japanese executives relieve their stress by drinking while foreign colleagues get rid of tension through sport, a survey said. The survey, by a soft drink manufacturer, of 300 Japan-based European and American businessmen found nearly 70 per cent felt stress. Of those, 60 per cent relieved it by playing sport while others watched videos or listened to music. Most said the key to relaxation was to get away from the office environment. A smaller percentage of Japanese businessmen, surveyed earlier, reported stress on the job but they tackled it differently. Seventy per cent said they got rid of tension by going drinking with friends and colleagues. A minority took exercise or just went home to bed.

Bush attacks Democrats at 1st fund-raiser for 1992

HOUSTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush tested new campaign rhetoric against the Democrats on Thursday for his expected 1992 re-election drive.

"I'm getting sick and tired, as the Congress winds up, of this partisan liberal criticism," he told his first "Bush-Quayle 1992" fund-raising dinner in his adopted home state of Texas.

"I can't wait now to roll up my sleeves and become a candidate."

Six Democrats are already on the presidential campaign trail and others may join the race. Republican Bush is not expected to announce his candidacy formally until January.

The tone of his remarks made clear he was already in the race in spirit if not under federal election law.

"If I'd have to let (Liberal Massachusetts Democratic Senator) Ted Kennedy tell me whether I could move a quarter

of a million troops to the Middle East, (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein would still be in Kuwait and he'd be moving into Saudi Arabia," said Mr. Bush, referring to U.S.-led military action in the Gulf war against Iraq that was opposed by many congressional Democrats.

"Thank God I didn't have to listen to those carpers telling me how to run that war," he said.

Mr. Bush said he made the "terrible mistake" of switching on CNN (Cable News Network) at the Middle East peace talks in Madrid Wednesday, and hearing a Democratic congressional leader criticising him for attending the conference opening.

"I could not believe the small-bore nature of that partisan criticism."

"Come on. We have a responsibility here. I have a responsibility to lead, and I'm not going to let Democratic liberal carping keep me from leading."

In an attack on environmentalists and other opponents of his energy policies, he said his critics had predicted a trans-Alaskan oil pipeline would endanger the caribou.

"You've got to shake 'em away with a stick. They're all making love lying up against the pipeline, and you've got thousands of caribou up there," he said to wild applause.

The \$1,000 a plate dinner, held at a hotel near the Astrodome, marked the launch of a drive by Mr. Bush and running-mate Dan Quayle to raise the \$26 million they will need to carry their campaign through the 1992 primaries.

Between 800 and 1,000 people were expected to buy tickets for the dinner, for a take of as much as \$1 million, organisers said.

The event marked the third time in Mr. Bush's presidency that he and Mr. Quayle have appeared together outside Washington, White House aides said.

Their last joint appearance was at the Houston economic summit in July of last year.

Mr. Bush made it clear he wanted to keep Mr. Quayle on the ticket despite polls showing most Americans believe the president should select a new running mate.

On Friday, Mr. Bush was to travel to Dallas and Mr. Quayle, to Indianapolis to attend fund-raising events separately.

Mr. Bush, once thought to be on an assured path to re-election, has been sweating politically because of a sluggish economy on the verge of the 1992 election year.

He said Thursday he now wanted to give unemployed Americans extra jobless benefits he previously rejected because "people are hurting."

COLUMN

Police find beaten children in Bangkok sweatshop

BANGKOK (R) — Malnourished children, many beaten so badly they could not walk, have been rescued from a Bangkok sweatshop, police said Friday. Thirty-one children, most in their early teens or younger, were found during a police raid Thursday locked in a small squalid room used as a factory to make paper cups. An officer of the Crime Suppression Division said. Some of them were so distressed they clung to the legs of police officers and burst into tears when they saw them. Officers were visibly shocked by what they saw, according to reporters who witnessed the raid. "I have never seen such a terrible scene as this before. I just can't believe how cruelly these children were treated," said Major General Rangsit Yano'hai, the head of the Crime Suppression Division. Nearly all the children were malnourished and suffering from skin diseases. They included five Lantians and a deaf boy from an ethnic hilltribe. One boy told police they had been forced to work 18 hours a day and given very little food. He said anyone who was too tired to work was tied up and beaten with a heavy piece of wood.

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